



UU of SCV

The Flame

www.UUofSCV.org

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

Santa Clarita's Unitarian Universalist Congregation

April, 2024

April's monthly theme:

The Gift of Interdependence

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a "living tradition" of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from [sources](#) as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.

[7th Principle](#): Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Sunday Services

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Do you join our services by Zoom? Maybe you live in the area and keep up with UU of SCV online through the Flame? We invite you to visit in person. **Come join us!**

Experience a Sunday service with Rev. Rebecca Bijur, our Consulting Minister, Rev. Jo Green, the Affiliated Community Minister, or a notable guest speaker. **Come worship with us!**

Long time Music Director Scott Roewe with Accompanist Monica Bowser and the choir are inspirational. **Come sing with us!**

Stay for coffee, snacks and conversation afterwards. What began last summer with a cooler of cold drinks has expanded to the Hospitality space next door to the sanctuary. Stop by after service to discuss the sermon, meet new folks or renew old friendships while enjoying refreshments. **Come talk with us!**

You are welcome here!

Sundays 10:30 am (10 am when Zooming into UUFKC)

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

April 7th, 10:30 am

The Soul of Money

Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur,
UU of SCV Consulting Minister



(Photo credit: Pexels.com)

Rev. Rebecca, who has served mission-based communities as a professional fundraiser for over twenty years, gets to talk about something she loves to talk about but most people do not love to talk about: money, and where it might fit into our lives as Unitarian Universalists and our life together as Unitarian Universalists of Santa Clarita Valley.

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.

*-- Antoine de Saint Exupéry,
author of The Little Prince*

April 14th, 10:30 am

The Interdependence of Our Lives

Rev. Jo Green
UU of SCV Affiliate Minister

Our world and our lives have become increasingly interdependent, so when our neighbour is harmed, it affects us too. Therefore we have to abandon outdated notions of 'them' and 'us' and think of our world much more in terms of a great 'US', a greater human family.

— Dalai Lama —

As we age and look at our individual histories, are we able to see how we are connected to so many people in our present and in our past? How has our faith brought us together collectively? How does our faith contribute to the world? Let's explore how Interdependence isn't just about the environment as we assume in our 7th Principle, but how we also are so very connected.

Stick around after the service (11:45 am) to discuss the Transforming Hearts Collective video that you watched. This is part of our now-annual renewal of welcoming congregation status. See the "We are a Welcoming Congregation" article, later in this newsletter to find out how to watch the video prior to this discussion.

April 21st, 10:00 am

Please Note Earlier 10:00 am Start Time
We will Zoom into the UUFKC Service from Vibe.

Our 7th Principle – How Nature Honors It and How We Might

Mark Hodson, UUFKC Member



We'll look at a few of the myriad ways Nature is interdependent, review some of our species' interdependence successes and failures, and consider how we, as individuals and collectively, might improve our success rate and, consequently, our spiritual lives.

Special Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98707116529?pwd=eXdzb1NxZnJHczlTWUtDOGpvZy8rdz09>

Meeting ID: 987 0711 6529

Passcode: 2211334

A Zoom Tip for When We Zoom into UUFKC's Service

Chris Hankla

Once each month UU of SCV zooms into worship hosted by the UU Fellowship of Kern County (UUFKC). Should you join in from home, rather than joining the Watch Party at Vibe, please stay on Zoom following the UUFKC worship portion of the service. A breakout room will be offered where you may continue in fellowship with those at Vibe. Don't miss out on Joys and Sorrows, the Benediction, and announcements specific to UU of SCV.

Join us, live at our Sunday services ...

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

... and streaming on Zoom (except for services streamed from UU Fellowship of Kern County)

<https://tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV>

Or via phone at:

(669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 3098843973 (use for password also)

"#" for personal ID

For Our Once-a-Month Service Streamed from UUFKC:

Services that are streamed from our partner congregation, UU Fellowship of Kern County, begin at 10:00 am. We gather at Vibe Performing Arts Studio to light our own chalice, share our joys & sorrows, and watch the sermon together. We hope to add more of our own in-person sections of the service over time – let us know what you would like to have included in-person.

For those watching from home, a special streaming URL is provided (which changes for each service) – see service write-up above for the special URL.

April 28th, 10:30 am

What Is Required of Us?

**A Rev. Gretchen Haley Sermon,
Read by Chris Hankla, UUSCV Member**



Rev. Gretchen Haley

Chris Hankla will read a sermon entitled "What is Required of Us?" written by Rev. Gretchen Haley. She is senior minister at Foothills UU in Fort Collins, CO.

Rev. Haley cites these quotes by Rebecca Parker in "Life Together," from A House for Hope:

"The perils of religious community have left many liberals and progressives convinced that organized religious communities cannot be trusted; they pose too many dangers and break too many promises. ... As a result, liberal and progressive people of faith are more at home alone than in company with others. ... Many liberals, consciously or not, seem to prefer that their religious institutions remain weak, underfunded, or distracted by endless attention to "process" and checks on the exercise of power. Too much money, power, or organization, it is feared, will lead to corruption."

Rev. Haley challenges Unitarian Universalists to contemplate interdependence in living the true meaning of Beloved Community.

This Month's Activities

Drum Circle

Beth Jenkins



Our meditative Drum Circle meets on the first Friday evening every month, at 7 pm –so this month we are meeting on **April 5th**.

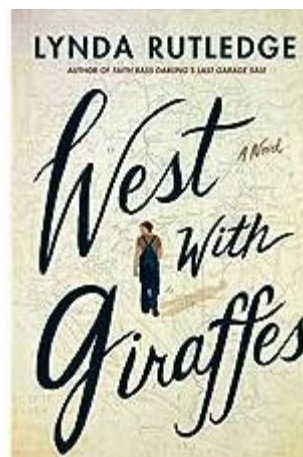
No experience necessary, and our Drum Circle leader Burl Bolerjack brings a great deal of drums and other percussion instruments from which to choose.

This Drum Circle includes a brief "check-in" followed by our first of three or four sets of drumming started by Burl providing a basic beat. It is a wonderful experience and newcomers are very welcome! This Drum Circle is at the home of Beth Jenkins. If you will be attending, it is very helpful to RSVP by Thursday night the night before to Beth at newbethj@yahoo.com, or text to 661-478-2036.

Note: A donation to support Burl's transportation cost is much appreciated but not required. All donations are shared with UU of SCV.

Book Club

Suzie Rizzo & Marianne Bakic



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.

We will be reading "WEST WITH GIRAFFES" by Lynda Rutledge **April 10th**. Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. But when he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave.

It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.

Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.

The book intends to celebrate hope in a hopeless world. It is an unforgettable novel of adventure, unrequited love, and the spirit of America during the bleakest period of its existence. The truly inspiring part of the book is that it is based on true events.

Please join us for a lively discussion.

Contact Suzie Rizzo (baroness1@sbcglobal.net) or Marianne Bakic (mariannebakic@icloud.com) if you have any questions.

Movie Night

SEJ Team,
Submitted by Glenda Nowakowski

SEJ is having movie night every month. 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 p.m.** Please bring finger foods to share -- vegan and vegetarian preferred. You may contact Suzie at baroness1@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.

The film for **April 12th** is a documentary on Henry A. Wallace. He was a successful scientist and businessman who lives the American dream. The movie document his remarkable journey from vice president of the United States to political pariah when the House Un-American Activities Committee questioned his patriotism. This is a story of a man who was caught between the ideal and the reality that is America. *(excerpts from the DVD jacket)*

The movie for May 10th is "What I've Learned about U.S. Foreign Policy."

Bend the Arc

Lou Paporozzi

**"THE ARC OF THE MORAL
UNIVERSE IS LONG, BUT IT BENDS
TOWARD JUSTICE"**

- *Written by Unitarian Minister Rev. Theodore Parker*
- *Quoted by Abraham Lincoln and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.*

This month's Bend the Arc meeting will be held on **April 17th**. It will be 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 Paporozzi for any additional information, louispaporozzi@gmail.com.

Open Topics Discussion Group

Barbara McCoy & Lois Linnert



The UU Open Topics Discussion Group talks about a variety of things that are of interest. We have realized that through discussions we are learning.

We meet the 4th Monday of each month at the home of Lois Linnert in Friendly Valley. You are most welcome to join us!

Time: **6:00 pm**

Date: **Monday, April 22nd**

Topic for April: If you were to live your life over, what would you change?

Bring food to share!

Questions: Contact Barbara McCoy at bmccoy1@socal.rr.com or call Lois Linnert at 661-299-5393.

Game Nights

Beth Jenkins



ZOOM Game Night -- Our monthly Zoom Game Nights will be occurring now on the first Saturday of the month. This month's Saturday ZOOM Game Night is on **Saturday, April 6th, 7:00 pm**

IN-PERSON Game Night -- In-person Game Nights will occur on the 4th Friday of each month, at the home of Beth Jenkins. We'd love to have you join us for a relaxing potluck followed by playing (mostly) word games. Our in-person Game Night for this month will be on **Friday, April 26th, 6:40 pm** (note slightly later start time). If you will be attending, please RSVP to Beth at newbethj@yahoo.com. It is

helpful if you can indicate what appetizer, dessert, or other food item you will be bringing.

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 the UU of SCV Zoom](#)

Social & Environmental Justice

We are a Welcoming Congregation!

Kevin Corcoran

Join us to participate in our practice of welcoming. Watch a video on your own and then participate in a discussion after the April 14 service at 11:45!

The 'Transgender Inclusion in Congregations' course offered by the Transforming Hearts Collective (THC) consists of six sessions which our congregants can view on their own. It includes a

video (53 minutes long) and associated resource links to browse. Instructions on how to access the session are further below.

- Learn the risk factors involved in being transgender and the ways race, class, age, ability, and other elements of identity impact trans experience.
- Learn about the experiences of trans people in Unitarian Universalism.
- Explore the many varied spiritual gifts of trans people.

Note: Closed captions are available for the lecture: turn on captions by clicking the "CC" icon in the lower right corner of the video window and selecting "English." Then press play and captions will appear.

Watch the video before April 14th by following these directions:

- Go to the THC home page linked here: <https://transforming-hearts-collective.teachable.com>
- Scroll to the bottom and select the \$400 option (already paid by the Church)
- Click "Enroll". On the next page click the red text "Add Coupon"
- In the box that appears, enter the coupon code UUSANTACLARITA and click "Apply" (the cost will be adjusted to \$0)
- Continue with the enrollment process
- Select "Session 5: The Role of Culture in Trans Exclusion"

Once you have completed enrollment, you have only to log in with your credentials and you will have access to the course sessions. Remember, the course is free to our congregants by using the coupon code and will be available to view as often as you like, and for future congregants too.

Social & Environmental Justice (SEJ) Team News

Louise Klatt & Glenda Nowakowski

NAACP – Ingrid Van Dorn and Suzie Rizzo attended the Smithsonian Institution's Green Book exhibit at the Peterson Auto Museum. The Green Book was a guide for Black travelers so they could find services that were friendly to them. The exhibit at the Peterson is over, but a link to the online version can be found at [Homepage - Negro Motorist Green Book \(si.edu\)](https://www.si.edu).

Food Pantry – Ingrid reported that the shelves are bare at the Food Pantry. They need more food, and also empty egg cartons. If you wish, you can leave food donations in a drop box in the alley behind the pantry. The address is 24133 Railroad Ave. in Newhall. <https://www.scvfoodpantry.org/>

Mental Health – Save the date! **Stop the Stigma** will be held on May 18, 2024 at Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital from 10 am TO 2 pm. This event is organized by our member Barbara Wilson, and educates on a variety of mental health issues. The objective is to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness and make people aware of the resources available to people who are struggling with mental illness and their loved ones.

Chiquita Canyon – Supervisor Barger is calling on state agencies to go after the landfill, as the county is unable or unwilling to. The Regional Water Board, one of the agencies that would have to approve the landfill's expansion, has denied the permit for expansion into East Canyon.

Citizen's Climate Lobby – The SCV Eco Alliance put on the Eco Film Festival at College of the Canyons on Saturday, March 9. There were six films to choose from, and you could choose one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Several

members of the congregation attended. If you missed them the first time around, the team may choose to show some of them at our Movie Night in the future. The next meeting of CCL will be on April 12 at 10 am. The Signal's article on the Eco Film Festival <https://signalscv.com/2024/03/film-festival-seeks-to-inspire-environmental-action>

Third Sunday – The Third Sunday recipient will be the Gibbon Conservation Center. The Center promotes the conservation, study, and care of gibbons through public education and habitat preservation. Learn more at [Gibbon Conservation Center - Home \(gibboncenter.org\)](http://Gibbon Conservation Center - Home (gibboncenter.org)).

Transforming Hearts Collective – There will be an education session for renewing our Welcoming Congregation status on April 14th at 11:45 am, at Vibe and also via Zoom. See Kevin Corcoran's article in this issue for more information.

UU the Vote – UU the Vote brings UU individuals and congregations together to work for justice and preserve democracy. They have begun their 2024 season. For more information, see their website <https://www.uuthevote.org>

Bend the Arc – Bend the Arc will meet on Wednesday, April 17th at 6 pm at the home of Suzie Rizzo. Please bring finger food to share.

Grandmothers (and others) for Peace – Grandmothers (and others) for Peace meets the first Sunday of every month from 3 to 4 pm at the corner of Valencia Blvd and McBean Parkway (the Facey corner.) Bring peace-related signs if you have them, or there will be signs that you can borrow. With so much talk about war in the news, social media, and entertainment, GFP seeks to remind us that peace is possible.

Movie Night – Movie Night will be held on April 12th at 6 pm at Suzie Rizzo's home. The movie will

be about Henry A. Wallace, who was FDR's Secretary of Agriculture and later his Vice President. Please bring finger food, preferably vegan or vegetarian. The movie starts at 7 pm.

The next meeting of the SEJ Team will be on May 12th. There will be postcard writing in the annex between the end of the service and the start of the meeting. Everyone is welcome to join us for the postcard writing and the meeting.

2nd Annual PSWSA "District Assembly"

Louise Klatt

On April 26th-28th, Camp de Benneville Pines is proud to sponsor our second annual "District" Assembly.

Our host this year is the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura with the support from their neighbors at Chalice UU Fellowship in Conejo Valley.

The theme this year is "Promoting Justice: Amplifying Voices at the Intersections of Race, Class, & Environment."

Highlights of the weekend program include:

- **Keynote speaker Hop Hopkins**, who has been organizing for over 25 years at the intersections of race, class, gender, and the environment. Most recently, he was the director of organizational transformation at the Sierra Club, where he was instrumental in helping the



organization evolve into a commitment to anti-racism.

- **Keynote speaker Lucas Zucker**, co-executive director of CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy) whose mission is to create grassroots power through community organizing, leadership development, coalition building, civic engagement, policy research, and advocacy to attain social, economic, and environmental justice for working-class and immigrant communities in California's Central Coast.



- **Emma's Revolution**, a camp and UU favorite, will perform for us. Emma's Revolution is an American folk music and social justice activist duo, consisting of songwriters Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow (a.k.a. Sandy O).



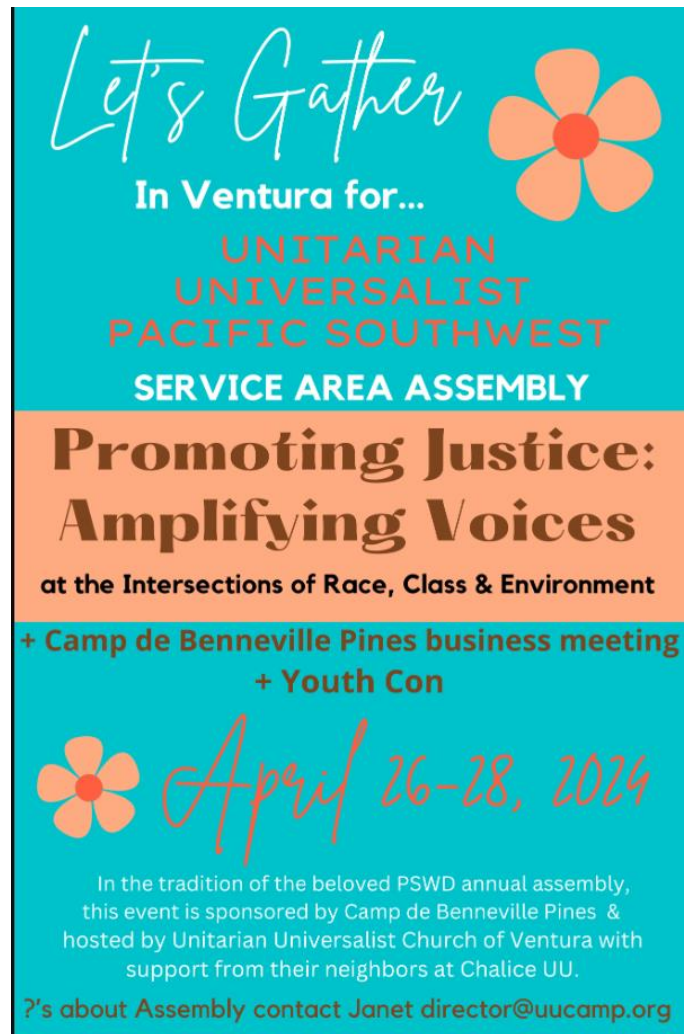
- **PSWSA Youth Con**, a weekend youth conference and overnight gathering for UU youth in grades 8th through 12th!

Camp de Benneville Pines Annual Business Meeting, learn about what's happening up at our spiritual mountain top home. Please sign up to be a

delegate representing your congregation when you register.

There are two ways to attend this Assembly: In Person or Virtually via Zoom.

For more details, costs, and how to sign up: [2024 Pacific Southwest Service Area Assembly - \(uucamp.org\)](https://uucamp.org)



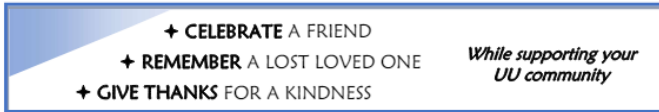
The poster features a teal background with a large orange flower icon. The text is arranged in several sections: 'Let's Gather' in white script, 'In Ventura for...' in white sans-serif, and the event title 'UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PACIFIC SOUTHWEST SERVICE AREA ASSEMBLY' in orange and white block letters. Below this, a dark orange banner contains the theme 'Promoting Justice: Amplifying Voices' in white, followed by 'at the Intersections of Race, Class & Environment' in white. Further down, it lists '+ Camp de Benneville Pines business meeting + Youth Con' in white. The dates 'April 26-28, 2024' are written in a large, orange script font. At the bottom, a white text box contains the event details and contact information.

In the tradition of the beloved PSWD annual assembly, this event is sponsored by Camp de Benneville Pines & hosted by Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura with support from their neighbors at Chalice UU.
?s about Assembly contact Janet director@uucamp.org

Join Friends and Colleagues from throughout the Pacific Southwest Service Areas (PSWD) April 26-28, 2024

Church Workings

Tribute Cards



UU of SCV's Tribute Card Program is an exceptional way to offer comfort, mark an occasion, or express personal gratitude to someone you care about, while supporting the work of the congregation.

This is how it works . . . You complete a Tribute Card form and send, or give, the form to Chris Hankla along with a donation check made out to UU of SCV. She will send a personalized card to the person or family you designate. You, the donor, will receive an acknowledgement that the card has been sent.

You can find a Tribute Card form online on UU of SCV's website at uuofscv.org by clicking on the "Donate" button. Or, you can find a form on the Membership Table each Sunday when we meet for worship at Vibe Performing Arts Studio on Lyons Blvd. in Newhall at 10:30 am.

REMEMBER – CELEBRATE – GIVE THANKS

Mobile Phone Texts

Chris Hankla

Mobile phone texts are used by UU of SCV for essential reminders and emergency alerts. Should you get a text from (833) 313-0483, know that it comes from UU of SCV through our church database. You can save that phone number in your mobile phone contact list as UU of SCV and the next time an important message is sent from that

number, you will know it is a message from the church.

Board of Trustees Highlights

Carmela Camp

- Planning is underway for a lending library or method for us to exchange books relating to spirituality.
- The Board is investigating applying for a Spirit Level Foundation grant for funds to promote our UU THE VOTE work (possibly in conjunction with NAACP voter registration efforts).
- The Annual Pledge Drive is coming up.
- The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom at 5:00 pm on Sunday, April 14th.

Board Officers

President - *unfilled*

Vice President - Rev. Dr. Ken Brown

Co-Treasurer - Eric Klatt

Co-Treasurer – Chris Hankla

Secretary - Carmela Camp

Member-at-Large - Rick Kamlet

Member-at-Large - Gordon Uppman

Member-at-Large – Diane Lin

The contact email for Rev. Rebecca by email is minister@uuofscv.org

Pastoral Care

Your UU of SCV Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team serves those in our congregation needing support. Current team members are Lucy Bates, Diane Lin, Barbara McCoy, and Ingrid Van Dorn. 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:

The Pastoral Care Team is an extension of the Minister's own pastoral care presence. This care is offered with strict confidentiality. Pastoral care is available to those experiencing illness, injury, grief, loneliness, or an unexpected 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.

Primary contact is Barbara McCoy – 818 438-8351.

Membership

Membership Team

Gratitudes

Everyone in our congregation helps out 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.

Birthdays

Suzie Rizzo	04/04
Louise Klatt	04/14

Membership Anniversaries

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

CALENDAR

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

- 5 **Drum Circle**, 7:00 pm, rsvp to Beth Jenkins
- 6 **Zoom Game Night**, 7:00 pm

Sunday

- 7 **Sunday Service, 10:30 am**
The Soul of Money
Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur

- 10 **Book Club**, 6:00 pm, Lois Linnert's home
- 12 **Movie Night**, Suzie Rizzo's home, 6:00 pm for food and conversation, 7:00 pm for movie

Sunday

- 14 **Sunday Service, 10:30 am**
The Interdependence of Our Lives
Rev. Jo Green

Post Card Writing -- Immediately after the Service

Board Meeting, 5:00 pm, Zoom

- 17 **Bend the Arc**, Suzie Rizzo's home, 6:00 pm for socializing, 6:30 for discussion.

Sunday

- 21 **Sunday Service, 10:00 am**
Our Seventh Principle: How Nature Honors it
Mark Hodson

Zoom from UUFKC (at Vibe)
Different Start Time: 10:00 am
Different Zoom Link for On-Line
(see listing)

- 22 **Open Topics Discussion Group**, 6:00 pm, Lois Linnert's home
- 26 **In Person Game Night**, 6:30 pm, home of Beth Jenkins
- 26 – 28 **PSWSA District Assembly**, Chalice UU Fellowship of Conejo Valley

Sunday

- 28 **Sunday Service, 10:30 am**
What is Required of Us?
A Rev. Gretchen Haley Sermon,
Read by Chris Hankla

Meditation – Every Friday 11 am to noon, *Zoom*