



UU of SCV

The Flame

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Santa Clarita's Unitarian Universalist Congregation

March, 2025

March's
monthly
theme:

Trust



A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because her trust is not in the branch but in her own wings.

Charlie Wardle

I've come to trust not that events will always unfold exactly as I want, but that I will be fine either way.

Marianne Williamson

The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them.

Ernest Hemmingway

Distrust all in whom the impulse to punish is powerful.

Friedrich Nietzsche

Sunday Services

March 2, 10:30 am
With Choir

I Know This Rose Will Open

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook
Minister, UU of SCV



To trust life means to believe the flower will bloom, the soul will be replenished. Is this orientation toward life wise during times of chaos and uncertainty? If we put our trust in life, what exactly does that mean?

Sunday services are held at:

Vibe Performing Arts Studio,
Valencia Plaza Shopping Center,
24460 ¼ Lyons Ave

And on Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV>

Or via phone at: (669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 3098843973 (use for password also)

"#" for personal ID

March 9, 10:30 am
With Choir

Exodus Moments

Rev. Liz Murphy



"In a season of immense change, we'll be turning to one of the classic stories of transition: Exodus. It's a story of freedom, of fear, of an upside-down world... sound familiar? This Sunday we'll re-examine this story -- which is one of our 6 UU sources -- to glean wisdom, hope, and strength. These days are full of "Exodus Moments" -- how might we respond to these thresholds with connection to community, with compassionate love, with a conviction for justice?"

Rev. Liz Murphy (she/her) is a staff chaplain at the VA Hospital of Loma Linda, CA. She is also an affiliated community minister at Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church in Costa Mesa, CA. Liz graduated from the Claremont School of Theology with a Master of Divinity in 2020. She previously worked as the Interfaith Programs Assistant at the University of Southern California Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, as well as a chaplain intern at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Originally from Pittsburgh, she lives in Monrovia, CA, with her wife, Hilary. <http://revmurphy.com/>

March 16, 10:30 am

Known by Art

Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur



In unsteady times, how do the arts anchor us and widen our sense of what is possible? If there is a work of art that has inspired, challenged, comforted, or delighted you in the past that you would like to share, please email Rev. Rebecca at rebecca.bijur@gmail.com by 3/9 and she may be able to include it in the service. (It could be a painting or visual art that has moved you, but it might be a piece of music, a memorable meal, a fashionable outfit, a piece of pottery, architecture, gardening, a dance performance, a play, etc.)

Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur is raising three children with her husband in Santa Monica, CA. She serves as Community Minister for the Emerson UU Church of Canoga Park and works with St. Joseph Center in Venice to provide housing, hope, and help to people experiencing homelessness. Rev. Bijur grew up in Japan, India, and suburban Maryland, is a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Divinity School, and has served UU congregations and multi-faith social justice communities in Los Angeles since 2010. You can find out where she is speaking next at www.rebeccabijur.com.

March 23, 10:30 am

Jazz Sunday

In Us We Trust

Rev. Jo Green

UU of SCV Affiliate Minister



So much is happening in our world these days and fear and anxiety abound. Do we trust each other anymore? Do we have sheros and heros who can inspire us? In this month of March, UU's do have martyrs who can inspire us in these times of trepidation and sorrow. Let us celebrate those we trust and who inspire us to move through these changing times and move us forward into a path of justice and compassion. Join us this Sunday to receive that inspiration and drive we need to move through these changing times.

This is our monthly Jazz Sunday!!!



March 30, 10:30 am

To Trust the Heart

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook



On Trans Day of Visibility, we celebrate the truth of the human heart. Within each one of us, there is a spark that knows who we are. Learning to trust that spark has long roots in Unitarian Universalism--back to our transcendentalist days. How can we draw upon our collective past to help encourage trust in this spark in a world full of chaos and fear?

After the service, there will be a discussion of the final session of the Transforming Hearts Collective program as part of our Welcoming Congregation renewal (see article).

Minister's Column



Rev. Dr. Jason Cook

Dear UU of SCV Members & Friends,

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about joy—specifically, how hard it can be to feel joy when so much in the world feels uncertain, heavy, and out of our control. The long recovery from wildfires, stark realities of immigration policies, concerns about LGBTQ rights, threats to federally funded assistance programs, and fears about the future of the systems that support our democracy — these are not abstract worries. They are real, and they weigh on us.

At times, it can feel selfish — even irresponsible — to focus on joy when so much is at stake. **But the truth is, we need joy to sustain our work for justice, to keep going in difficult times.**

I was reminded of this in a community meeting with clergy discussing some of these concerns. One pastor there was an expert on the issues—they knew the statistics, they had deep passion--but this justice superstar was also consumed by exhaustion and anger. At one point, another minister gently said, "It's important for me to ground my work in joy." The pastor's response was to stand up, clench their fists, and shout: **"I WORK FROM A PLACE OF JOY, TOO!!!"**

Needless to say, we weren't convinced; it was clear they had lost touch with joy. And it's understandable; our hearts went out to this person. It's easy to disconnect from joy when the problems of the world feel overwhelming. **But without joy, our work—and our lives—become unsustainable.**

I was reminded of this again while performing with a nonprofit theater company that brings Shakespeare to kids who might not otherwise experience it. One morning, we performed for 200 students from struggling schools in economically disadvantaged areas of Los Angeles. We had been warned to expect chatter and distraction, but instead, they were captivated—silent during the show (especially during the swordfights!) and afterwards full of questions.

It was a beautiful moment. But I wasn't fully present to it. I had woken up early, made a long drive, and had barely mustered up the amount of energy needed for my stage entrances and exits. I knew the work was important, but I wasn't *feeling* it.

Then, during the Q&A, one of the kids asked a question: "How do you deal with auditions you don't get?"

One of my castmates answered immediately. "I remind myself of one thing," she said, looking at the faces of all those children in front of her. "I don't try to be what I think they want—I just show up as myself. Because I am enough. And if there's one thing I hope you take with you today, it's that: **You are enough.**"

Those words stayed with me. **How often do we tell ourselves that we aren't enough?** That we aren't doing *enough*? That we aren't *enough* when it comes to handling our work, our relationships, our responsibilities? That we aren't smart *enough*, strong *enough*, deserving *enough* to feel joy?

That belief—the one that tells us we aren't enough — blocks our joy. **It keeps us so focused on**

what's missing, on what needs fixing, that we miss the joy already available to us.

This is about how we engage with the world, and it's especially noticeable in anxious times like these. **When we believe we are enough, we can allow joy to reach us.** And when we notice the joy already around us, we are better equipped to do the hard work the world is asking of us.

That noticing takes practice. Sometimes we are too tired, too overwhelmed, too disconnected in the moment. **But joy is still there, waiting to be recognized.** That morning performing Shakespeare for those kids, I was initially sleepwalking through the joy present there, but looking back, I can see it — the excitement in those kids' faces, their curiosity, their questions. And even though I missed it in real time, I can let it in now.

And so can you.

If you feel like joy is far away, I invite you to try this:

First, ask yourself: What might be blocking joy for you? Maybe it's exhaustion. Maybe it's fear and anxiety. Maybe it's the feeling that you are not enough.

Then, ask: What joys are already around you? Small ones count. A deep breath of fresh air. A song that moves you. The smile of a friend.

And finally, ask: How can you let that joy in?

It starts by remembering two things:

1. You are enough.
2. Joy is available.

You and joy: the world--especially now--needs both.

With love,
Rev. Jason

Activities

Movie Night

Suzie Rizzo

SEJ is having movie night. Documentaries, biographies, novels, and more are shown at the home of Suzie Rizzo on the second Friday of each month. **On March 14, 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 movies@uuofscv.org if you have any questions.



“The Guernica Children” will be shown. In the wake of the bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War, four thousand Basque refugee children were evacuated to Britain. Seventy years on, we hear their extraordinary story and of the conflict between humanitarian need and political convenience that ensued.

April’s film will be “Made in L. A.” It is a story about immigration, the power of unity, and the courage it takes to find your voice.” (*Film jacket statement*)

"Grief & Caregivers" Check-In Group

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook



The Grief & Caregivers check-in group, designed for those navigating the complex terrain of grief and caregiving, will continue every month on the third Thursday of each month at noon on Zoom. The intention is to create a safe, nurturing space for individuals who are processing loss or supporting loved ones through challenging times.

This month, the group will be held on Thursday, **March 20, 12:00 noon.**

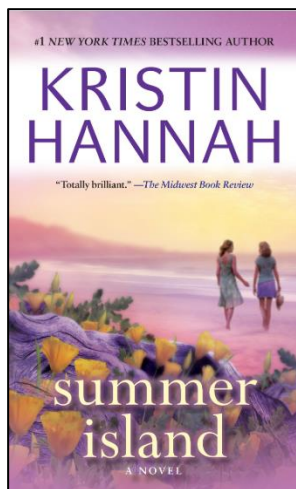
Questions? Email Rev. Jason at minister@uuofscv.org

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 on March 12** 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.

This month we will be discussing Kristin Hannah's book, "Summer Island." According to The Washington Post Book World, Hannah is superb at delving into the characters' psyches and delineating nuances of feeling." The book cover says, "Years ago, Nora Bridge walked out on her marriage and left her daughters behind. She has since become a celebrity radio talk-show host and newspaper columnist beloved for her moral advice. Her youngest daughter, Ruby, is a struggling comedian who uses her famous mother as fuel for her bitter, cynical humor. When the tabloids unearth a scandal in Nora's past, her career implodes and Ruby gets her big break: she is offered a fortune to write an unflattering tell-all article about her mother..."



The Club will be reading Nickel Boys by Colton Whitehead in April.

Contact Ingrid Van Dorn or Marianne Bakic at books@uuofscv.org if you have any questions.

Game Nights

hosted by Beth Jenkins

ZOOM Game Night – ZOOM Game Night will be **March 1** (first Saturday of the month). Join us for a wild Pictionary type game and possible Scategories and/or Boggle -- ALL on your computer / laptop! The fun begins at **6:00 pm** (this is a NEW TIME and permanent change from 7 pm). 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). 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, now happening on the third Friday of each month. This month the date will be **Friday, March 21, at the usual 6:30 pm time**. Please RSVP to Beth Jenkins at: games@uuofscv.org. 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 of UU of SCV to attend any of our regular monthly activities, and you are encouraged to invite friends, including to the ZOOM game night.

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 March, **March 19**, at the home of Suzie Rizzo. at our usual time, **6:00 pm for potluck and chatting, and 6:30 for serious discussion.**

If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact Suzie Rizzo at thearc@uuofscv.org.

Drum Circle

Beth Jenkins

Drum Circle is changing to the fourth Friday of each month, so this month, it will be on **March 28 at 7:00 pm.**

For any questions, concerns, or directions, as well as to RSVP (which is MUCH appreciated so that we know how many chairs to put out), contact drums@uuofscv.org.

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!

Open Topics Discussion Group

Lois Linnert & Beth Jenkins

We sit in a room with each other and discuss various topics, the topic being different each month. Future Topics may include "What was the most frightening or exhilarating time in your life?", "Tell a funny story or a few jokes", and "What is the meaning of friendship to you, and what is the difference between casual friendship and deep friendship?"

We would love for you to join us. Each month we meet on the 4th Monday (**March 24**) at the home of Lois Linnert at **6:00 pm**. We bring food to share, so we can socialize before the discussion begins.

The topics for discussion in March are: What do you find meaningful in our congregation? How do you support and share with others?

The topics for April (28th) will be: What drives you crazy about a friend, colleague, or family member? How do you deal with it?

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Lois Linnert or contact opentopics@uuofscv.org.

Animal Ministry

Ingrid Van Dorn, animals@uuofscv.org

Please join us for our Animal Ministry of UU of SCV meeting on Sunday, **March 23**. We meet on the 4th Sunday of the month at **12 noon** at Vibe. The meeting is also on Zoom.

Our first mission is to help provide some fun for the dogs at Castaic Animal Care and Control. They do not accept toys because of the choking hazard. However, the director gave me instructions as to what is acceptable. So, we will be purchasing some Chuckit fetch toys and bucket. Please do not buy this for them as we need a specific size. If you would like to contribute, that would be great!

"Animals suffer as much as we do...It is our duty to make the whole world recognize it. Until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, humanity will not find peace."

-Albert Schweitzer, Unitarian

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 at meditation@uuofscv.org

[Connect with the UU of SCV Zoom](#)

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 **March 30 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 (56 minutes long) and associated resource links to browse. Instructions on how to access the session are 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 March 30 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 6: Creating Culture Shift"

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.

Save the Date

“A SPRING FLING!” SOCIAL EVENT (with a different kind of Silent Auction)

Plan to attend UU of SCV’s Spring Fling! Invite a friend or two, as well.

Saturday, April 12, 2025

5:00 – 8:30 pm

Home of Suzie Rizzo

You can expect good eats, fun games, and delightful camaraderie. Attendees can sign up to participate in fundraising opportunities. The menu includes **appetizers and desserts only**. Be sure to check with Chris Hankla who is coordinating the eats! Get more details and location directions by emailing her at info@uuofscv.org. Hope to see you there!

“Opportunity” Auction Items Needed for Spring Fling Fundraising

The items to be auctioned for this year’s “Spring Fling!” **will not be physical objects**. Instead, the Board is looking for individuals to offer **opportunities** that come with a price. Think of what talents you might share. Let your imagination fly! Here are some ideas of what might be auctioned:

- a specific dining experience for six highest bidders
- an afternoon tea for four highest bidders
- an afternoon of crafts for eight at a set price

- a sermon suggestion for one Sunday to the highest bidder (*Rev. Jason has already committed to offering this, so start thinking about what you'd like, and bid on it*).
- a guided tour of a favorite location for six at a set price
- a guided hiking experience with snacks for four at a set price
- a bowling competition for eight at a set price
- an offer to wash windows at a person's home to the highest bidder
- a two-hour folk sing-a-long at a set price
- a day on the water for two highest bidders
- a two-hour tennis or golf lesson (or whatever you can teach) for one to the highest bidder
- instruction in dancing the two-step at a set price
- instruction in making pasta, flower arranging, kite construction, bicycle maintenance, tying flies for fishing, or ???

You decide the participant limit to your opportunity. You decide the minimum price or the set price. You decide whether to accept the highest bidder or a specific number of highest bidders. All auction proceeds will go into UU of SCV's general fund. Please contact Chris Hankla at info@uuofscv.org with your submissions by March 31.

Announcements

Seeking Delegates to Represent UU of SCV at the 2025 UUA General Assembly

The Board

Your UU of SCV Board is seeking two individuals to serve the congregation as delegates to the 2025 UUA General Assembly (GA). GA will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, June 18-22 at the Baltimore Convention Center and participants may also join online using the Whova app. While the full Adult Multiplatform registration (online or in person) costs \$410, the Business-Only registration (for voting) -- which is normally \$150 -- has been discounted to \$0.

The Business-Only registration provides access to the GA Delegate Platform for discussion and voting during General Sessions. GA General Sessions are where UUA policy is addressed and determined.

Business-Only registrants may use the promo code OPTOUT2025 to reduce the registration cost to \$0. Business-Only registrants will have access to delegate discussion spaces but will not have access to GA programming, the GA app, networking opportunities, or the exhibit hall. You must have a delegate credential and be registered for GA to access the delegate platform.

Please contact Rick Kamlet, president@uuofscv.org, if interested or <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration> for more information.

Dining for Dollars Fundraising

Chris Hankla



Your UU of SCV Board is looking for volunteers to offer "Dining for Dollars" opportunities. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve gourmet meals for up to eight people who sign up to pay for the privilege of attending. All proceeds go to UU of SCV and will be applied as fundraising income which has been anticipated in the approved 2024-25 budget.

Perhaps you would enjoy generously hosting a wine tasting, a specialty tea experience, or another creative opportunity for a small group of people. **Please contact Tommie O'Sullivan.**

UU of SCV Music Fully Funded for this Church Year! Thank you to Donors!

Chris Hankla

Music draws us in and touches our souls. The congregation has repeatedly validated the importance of music in our worship services. When funds for the music program dwindled, your Co-Treasurer started a donation campaign to revitalize funds for music at UU of SCV. Due to the generous support of congregants, \$1,373 was collected. Added to the \$615 that was in the Music Fund reserve, \$1,988 is now available for music for the

rest of this church year, and that fully funds the music fund through June.

Scott Roewe, our Music Director, wishes to extend his gratitude for this blessing. He has proposed scheduling the choir to sing two Sundays each month, with a special guest vocalist on third Sundays, and the jazz ensemble every fourth Sunday.

Thank you all for making this possible.

Passages

Bruce Glad



***Bruce Glad speaking at the 2019
Fathers Day Service***

Congregation member Bruce Glad passed away in January. Bruce and his wife, Rowena (known as Romi), joined UU of SCV in 2011. They were both involved in Book Club. Bruce spoke to the congregation on Fathers' Day about being a father and grandfather. Bruce had been on the Board of

Trustees. They were caretakers for their grandsons, Dylan and Shane, who attended RE regularly as kids. Bruce, Romi, and the boys went to Camp deBenneville one Fall, and Shane participated in the talent show, treating us to a show of rifle spinning that he learned in ROTC. We held a bridging ceremony for the boys when they graduated high school in 2017. Since the pandemic, Bruce and Romi have been attending services online.

A memorial service will be held for Bruce on April 6 after the regular Sunday service, at vibe and online (on the regular UU of SCV Zoom).

Social & Environmental Justice

Social & Environmental Justice (SEJ) Team News

Louise Klatt & Glenda Nowakowski



PFLAG – PFLAG has changed its meeting schedule.

- General membership meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each odd month at 7 pm at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
- Online adult Zoom support group meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each even month.
- Pizza and ice cream socials are held on the second Tuesday of each even month at the Amphitheater at Valencia Marketplace 25888 The Old Road, Stevenson Ranch 6-9 pm (Mod Pizza and Handel Ice Cream.)

NAACP – NAACP meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the NorthPark HOA clubhouse. Meetings are open to all. NAACP hosts occasional fundraisers and mixers.

Several members of the SEJ Team attended the Unity Walk at Central Park on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There were speeches and singing groups, then a walk around the park. The Unity Walk occurs every year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day from 8 – 10 am at Central Park. The SEJ Team encourages people to attend next year.

SCV Food Pantry – Ingrid Van Dorn reports that the Food Pantry needs nonperishable food, pet food, and personal care items. The Food Pantry is currently serving 7000 people per month.

Mental Health – Save the Date! The annual Stop the Stigma event will be held on May 10 from 10 am to 2 pm at Henry Mayo Hospital. This event is held in order to remove the stigma associated with seeking help for mental illness. Barbara Wilson has reported that mental health problems are increasing as students fear that their immigrant parents will be deported and that there is an increase in the number of trans people attempting suicide. Both are the result of government policies that further marginalize people in these groups.

Postcard Writing – Postcard writing is on the second Sunday of the month after the service in the annex of Vibe Performing Arts. Materials, postage, and fact sheets will be provided. Stop by and let your elected officials know what is on your mind!

Eco-Film Festival – The Eco-Film Festival will be held on Saturday March 8 from 10 am to 4 pm at the University Center at the College of the Canyons. The Eco Alliance, an alliance of local environmental groups, is hosting. For more information, visit <http://www.scv-eco-alliance.weebly.com/upcoming-activities.html>

SCOPE/Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Even though the Chiquita Canyon landfill has closed, the problems are not over. The reaction that has been causing the toxic fumes is still happening. The SEJ Team encourages people to learn how to reduce the amount of trash that they generate.

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.

Fifth Sunday – The next Fifth Sunday will be on March 30. We will be discussing the final session of the Transforming Hearts Collective as part of our Welcoming Congregation renewal.

Third Sunday – The Third Sunday recipient for March is the Board’s pick. The Board has designated the collection to go to relief for UUs affected by the Altadena wildfire. The money will be disbursed by Neighborhood and Throop churches.

Bend the Arc – Bend the Arc will meet on the third Wednesday of the month (March 19) at 6 PM. Please bring food to share and ideas for discussion.

Movie Night – Movie Night will be held on Friday, March 14 at 6 pm. Please see Suzie Rizzo’s article elsewhere in this newsletter.

The next SEJ Team meeting will be on March 9 at noon at Vibe Performing Arts and via Zoom.

Postcard writing will be held that day between the end of the service and noon in the Vibe Annex. If you have any questions, contact sej@uuofscv.org.

2024 Third-Sunday Charities Make a Difference

Chris Hankla



For many years, it has been the practice at UU of SCV to identify specific charities in the local community which are in line with UU values, as well as UU affiliate organizations in need. Cash and check donations to a chosen charity are collected at the third Sunday worship service each month.

During 2024 a total of \$2,009 was collected and donated to the following charities: Single Mothers Outreach, UUA Disaster Relief, SCOPE Radio KQRU, UU the Vote, the SCV LGBTQ+ Center, the Gibbon Conservation Center, Mental Health Hookup, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Advocates for Trans Equality (A4TE), the SCV Child and Family Center’s Domestic Violence Shelter, and Camp de Benneville Pines. Additionally, in December congregants contributed \$575 in Target gift cards to the Child and Family Center for teens

affected by domestic violence. Thanks to all for your generous support of local charities!

By the way, here is a gratifying fact: According to treasury records from February 2006 to December 2024, **UU of SCV congregants have donated \$46,723 to charities through Third-Sunday collections.** This is definitely something to be proud of!

Camp de Benneville Pines

Louise Klatt



Camp de Benneville Pines welcomes a year-round community of campers of all ages. **Camps include** [Youth Camps](#), Theme [Camps for Adults](#), [Family Camps](#) including church retreats sponsored by our affiliated Pacific Western Region [Unitarian Universalist Congregations](#), and others.

Men's Retreat -Spring Renewal 2025 (Friday, April 11th to Sunday, April 13th) What's available in our UUMF brotherhood? How do we build sustainable and authentic friendships? Let's explore this gently in our kinship groups at camp. In the beauty of the mountains and the safety and fellowship of our brothers, we will reflect, support each other, hangout, and have fun together. The weekend includes small groups, outdoor activities, drumming, songs, chanting, laughter, ritual, and

great food! [Men's Fellowship - First UU Church of San Diego](#)

2025 UU Women's Retreat (Friday May 2nd to Sunday May 4th)

Spend the weekend up at our beloved mountain retreat. In this time of uncertainty and turmoil, it is so important for women to come together in community. [2025 Women's Retreat](#)

PSWSA Assembly (Sponsored by Camp de Benneville Pines)

Louise Klatt



Unitarian Universalism: Now More Than Ever

The 3rd Annual Pacific Southwest Service Area (PSWSA) Assembly is scheduled for April 25 to 27, 2025, at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego. The theme for this year's assembly is "UU Now More Than Ever!" The event will feature two keynote speakers, six workshops, music, and social interactions.

Lodging can be a challenge in the San Diego area, so make your hotel reservation now. Camp de Benneville Pines has reserved a block of rooms at Days Inn – Mission Valley. \$139 two queen beds, free hotel parking. Use code "Camp de Benneville Pines" or "PSWSA." Call (619) 297-8800 or log onto their website: www.daysinnhc.com.

Church Workings

Board of Trustees

Glenda Nowakowski, Secretary

Key topics from the February 16 meeting of the UU of SCV Board of Trustees:

- The Board reviewed the progress on our three goals for this church year.
- The Board is investigating getting a grant to hire a part-time coordinator for our Religious Exploration (RE) program.
- The Board is planning a "New to UU" class and a new member ceremony for late spring.

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>

To Schedule an In Person Appointment (for after a Sunday service):

<https://calendly.com/minister-uuofscv>

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

Board Officers

Two Board members will be rotating off the Board after this church year. Please contact the Nominating Committee – Lucy Bates and Kevin Corcoran -- if you would like to fill one of these roles.

Serving on our church's Board of Trustees is a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact on our congregation and community. **As a trustee, you'll help guide our church's mission, oversee vital programs, and ensure our resources are used effectively to serve others.** This role allows you to collaborate with fellow members, share your insights, and grow in your faith journey. Join us in shaping the future of our church and extending our reach to those in need.

President – Rick Kamlet

Vice President - Rev. Dr. Ken Brown *(to rotate off the Board after this church year)*

Co-Treasurer - Eric Klatt

Co-Treasurer – Chris Hankla

Secretary - Glenda Nowakowski

Member-at-Large - Gordon Uppman

Member-at-Large – Carmela Camp

Member-at-Large – *Remainder of church year being filled by Louise Klatt (to rotate off the Board after this church year)*

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 are 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.

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. pastoralcare@uuofscv.org, or contact one of the members listed above. Or feel free to contact the minister directly minister@uuofscv.org, 661-237-8873.

Membership

Membership Team

Membership Anniversaries

Suzie Rizzo	03/20/2016
Carmela Camp	03/27/2016
Warren Eckles	03/01/2020
Karen Hatcher	03/01/2020

Birthdays

Mark Urbach	03/05
Marcia Harvey	03/05

CALENDAR

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

Meditation – Every Friday 11 am to noon, Zoom

1 ZOOM Game Night, 6 pm (*new time*)

Sunday

2 Sunday Service, 10:30 am

I Know This Rose Will Open

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook, *UU of SCV Minister, Service with Choir*

8 Love at the Center, 10 am – noon,
Special Zoom, sign up beforehand (link provided)

Sunday

9 Sunday Service, 10:30 am

Exodus Moments

Rev. Liz Murphy, *Service with Choir*

Postcard Writing, after the service

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

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

14 Movie Night, 6 pm for conversation,
7:00 for movie

Sunday

16 Sunday Service, 10:30 am

Known By Art

Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur

Third Sunday Recipient: Wildfire Relief

Board Meeting, 12 noon

19 Bend the Arc, 6 pm for potluck,
6:30 pm for discussion, Suzie Rizzo's

20 Grief and Caregivers Check-In, 12:00
noon to 1 pm, Regular UU of SCV Zoom site

21 IN-PERSON Game Night, 6:30 pm,
Beth Jenkin's home (rsvp)

22 Love at the Center, 10 am – noon,
Special Zoom, sign up beforehand (link provided)

Sunday

23 Sunday Service, 10:30 am

In Us We Trust

Rev. Jo Green, *UU of SCV Affiliate Minister, Jazz Sunday*

Animal Ministry, 12 noon (at Vibe and Zoom)

24 Open Topics Discussion Group, 6:00 pm,
Lois Linnert's home

28 Drum Circle, 7 pm, Beth Jenkin's home

Continued on next page →

Sunday

30 Sunday Service, 10:30 am

To Trust the Heart

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook

Transforming Hearts Collective

Discussion, 11:45 pm, at Vibe and on Zoom

Mark Your Calendar

April 6 – Memorial Service for Bruce Glad,

Vibe and online (regular UU of SCV Zoom), after the service – exact time to be announced.

**April 12 – UUSCV “Spring Fling!”,
FOR EVERYONE, Appetizers & Deserts Only**

Suzie Rizzo’s house, 5-8 pm.

April 25 – 27 -- (PSWSA) Assembly,

First UU Church of San Diego

June 18 - 22 – UUA General Assembly,

Baltimore and online (special), must register