



Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura • 5654 Ralston Street • Ventura, CA • 805/644-3898 • [www.uuventura.org](http://www.uuventura.org)

## Sunday Services

Music: 9:45AM Service: 10AM



### Our May Theme is Curiosity

We UUs are a curious lot. Curiosity, questing and questioning, wondering is a core value we share. Curiosity can be a spiritual practice. We enjoy learning and growing often for its own sake, and yet curiosity can carry us deep into questions whose answers can change us.

Where has your curiosity carried you? What have you learned about yourself and the world? What do you still seek to know? What have been the consequences of your curiosity?

UU minister and poet Victoria Safford writes, "To see, simply to look and to see, is an ethical act...; to see, with open eyes, is a spiritual practice and thus a risk.... It can open you to ways of knowing the world and loving it that will lead to inevitable consequences." She tells us an "awakened eye" is conscious, willful, even brave. "To see things as they are, each in its own truth, will make you very vulnerable."

Hmm... the consequences of curiosity. A spiritual practice of curiosity is more about more than gleeful discovery. Curiosity taken as a spiritual practice will inevitably leave us changed.

### May 5 – Unitarian Christianity: The 200th Anniversary of the "Baltimore Sermon"

Rev. Dana Worsnop and Worship Associate Jim Merrill

### May 12 – Ask Me a Question

Rev. Dana Worsnop and Worship Associate Chuck Samonsky. Rev. Dana's first-ever "Question Box" sermon. You bring the questions, she may even have some answers

### May 19 – Wisdom of the Sages

Sages of the Church and Worship Associate Maura Raffensperger

### May 26 – When Will it Ever End?

Rev. Dana and Worsnop Associate Sue Brinkmeyer. A memorial service for those who have died by gun violence.

### Save the Date

Sunday, May 19 • 11:30AM • Sanctuary

Author Sarada Chiruvolu will speak to us about her journey through deep meditation toward Enlightenment and will share her 10 Simple Steps to help us in our own progress.



Her book *Home At Last, A Journey Toward Higher Consciousness* will be available. Sarada will share how we can engage in the journey of realization and balancing spiritual disciplines, with everyday life. She will speak about what it means to be "home at last," which she perceives as the ultimate purpose of life, and how we all reach our destination eventually. Following her brief presentation, there will be time for questions and answers. Presentation is sponsored by Many Paths and the Adult Programs Coordinating Team

### Inside

Ministry News .....	2
Notes from President's Desk .....	3
Social Action .....	4
Religious Education News .....	5
UU Things to Do .....	6-7
Committee News .....	8
2019 Nominations - Slate of Candidates .....	8
May Calendar .....	9
In Memoriam George Tillquist....	10

## SAVE THE DATE

Attention Crafters and Shoppers

The 2019 Annual UUCV Craft Fair is November 16 & 17.

More details to come!



Plan Ahead for the 2019  
SACC Volunteer Fair  
September 15, 2019

"Like" the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura on Facebook. It's one more way to stay connected.

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, united by our liberal religious tradition, seek truths, and meaning, and commit to right action. We will nurture our congregation and carry our principles forth to better ourselves, our community, and our planet. To these purposes, we pledge our hearts and hands, our minds and means.

## MINISTER'S COLUMN

No one ever joins a church because they want to serve on a committee," is common wisdom. It is even largely – though not always – true.

This is part of why folks who study church dynamics (and there are people who make a living at it) suggest churches move away from forming more committees. In our very busy, often over-committed (over-committed?) world, the word feels off-putting, hide-bound, and, well, tedious.

Folks in the WWII generation and even the Baby Boomers joined committees and changed the world. Yet many today are more comfortable with shorter-term work that doesn't necessarily mean meeting on the third Wednesday of every month.

Because of this, UU Ventura is slowly changing titles of the groups that form to help us live out our mission. Though it reflects more than a change in nomenclature, and a few people have expressed confusion about it.

So here is a glossary:

**Committee** – a formal group that meets regularly – usually monthly – and likely publishes formal minutes. The best example for us is the Finance Committee; we definitely need them to meet monthly and their minutes are vital to keeping us all informed and aware of budgets and finance.

**Team** – a group that meets on an as-needed basis. They likely take notes to keep team members on track, though don't need published minutes. A team's work is also likely more dynamic, more nimble. A good example at UU Ventura is the Personnel Team. There are times their work ramps up and they meet regularly, although not necessarily monthly. There are times they do work by email, and times they touch base with each other, the board, or the minister to make sure things are on track.

**Task Force** – a group gathers to complete a task and disbands when the task is done. They may keep notes, though not necessarily minutes. They likely write a report for the board, committee, or team that empowers them. The Five Year Vision Task Force has five members, so we affectionately call the 5-4-5 Force. It was formed by the board to take the congregation through a mission and vision process. The end result will be a Five Year Vision Plan which will be created by committees and teams and a perhaps a task force or two. The plan will be approved by the board and then by the whole congregation. The 5-4-5 Force will then disband, rest a while on their laurels, likely move on to other church work.

My great hope is that we have a vibrant combination of committees, teams, task forces, affinity groups, and social groups that all actively engage people's hearts, minds, spirits, and sense of devotion to the congregation and to creating justice in the world.

*That's all,  
With Love, Rev. Dana*

## News from Jennifer

While normally most newsletter articles in On Common Ground aren't of a personal nature, this situation impacts my work here at UUCV, so I wanted to share a little glimpse into my life.

For the past year, my husband and I have been preparing to grow our family through adoption--more specifically, foster-to-adoption. We are working with a really wonderful private agency that unites families throughout the State of California. We have joyfully finished the mountain of paperwork, First Aid/CPR/Water Safety courses, parenting classes, background checks, doctor appointments, references, and more. Now, we wait...

I will be taking parental leave, but unlike having a biological child, we don't know when we are going to be placed. It could be as soon as next week, or as late as next year.

However, I have been working closely with Rev. Dana, staff, the Board of Trustees, the Personnel Committee, and a group of talented volunteers to make sure that the office continues to run efficiently. All programs, events, and meetings will occur as usual, but the office hours will be limited while I am out. We will keep you in the loop!

I am full of all sorts of emotions and feelings, but mainly gratitude. I'm grateful to parent with a great partner, and so grateful to grow our family with the little soul(s) that we get to care for.

My position as Congregational Administrator here at UUCV is one that I truly enjoy, and am thankful to be part of such an amazing community. Thank you for all of your love and support!

*In expectant faith,  
Jennifer Luce*

# Newsletter Submittals

We value your contributions and very much appreciate email submittals.

Send email submissions for  
*On Common Ground* to

[newsletter@uuventura.org](mailto:newsletter@uuventura.org)

**Next Newsletter Deadline**

**May 10 at Noon**

Next issue is June



*On Common Ground*

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<http://www.uuventura.org>

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*Call first to ensure Jennifer is onsite.*

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# NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In April the Finance Committee recommended a budget for 2019-2020 to the Board. The process for creating the budget began as part of the Congregational Conversation and a mid-year review held last January. It's fair to say that we intentionally moved up the process of preparing a budget by a couple of months. The size of our congregation and the increasing complexity of budgeting where our resources are spent has led us to greater transparency and congregational input. That was evident by the participation of 20+ members who attended the March 30 Finance Committee presentation led by Chair, David Smith. This was a congregational opportunity to comment on the draft version of the budget before its submittal to the Board of Trustees. On June 9, the date of our UUCV Annual Meeting, the budget will be presented to the congregation for an "up or down" vote. We believe our budget is a moral document that contains visionary components as well as fiduciary prudence that frames our hopes and aspirations for 2019-2020. In late May a packet of information about the Budget and the Slate of Candidates will be mailed to members for review prior to the Annual meeting.

April also saw the Pacific Western Region hold District Assembly in Long Beach from the 26-28. One of the things that amazed me about DA this year is that registration for this event sold out! UUs attended from all over the region reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. A variety of workshops were available for any interest. If you were unable to attend, please consider including District Assembly in your plans for next year.

The UUA General Assembly 2019 (GA) is coming up on June 19– 23 in Spokane, Washington. This is a much larger and bigger version of DA because it involves UUs from all over the country coming to attend. For many, GA is a pilgrimage. It is a long way to travel and yet worthwhile if you are able. Please let me know if you are planning on going to GA. It is an energizing experience to be with other UUs!

Further out on the calendar is another event to consider attending when it comes to meeting other Unitarian Universalists. That's the Conejo Valley & Monte Vista UU Family Retreat at Camp de Benneville Pines. This is also known as our "Cluster Camp" because of the involvement of our local, Ventura County UU churches. The dates are September 27-29 and is a great opportunity to get away for a weekend of fun, play, and rejuvenation in the mountains. You can find out about Camp de Benneville Pines and make reservations on the camp website at [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org). Please let me know if you are interested in going.

*Living in Paradise,*

*Bryan Buck, UUCV Board President*

# Social Action and More

"Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness." Seneca



The congregation's Action Team for Immigrants' Rights (ATIR) will present information about the 'Blue Card' federal immigration legislation from representatives of the United Farm Workers (UFW) Foundation on Mon., May 13, at 6PM in Berg Hall. The bill offers protection from deportation, a path to citizenship for agricultural workers, and permits immigrant farm

workers whose labor and sacrifice feeds America, remain in the United States. An estimated more than half of Ventura County area agricultural workers are undocumented. The UFW Foundation is the nonprofit arm of the union started by Cesar Chavez.

As the agricultural industry experiences labor shortages, the California Farm Bureau Association, a nonprofit that works to protect family farms and ranches, has joined agricultural workers in supporting passage of the Blue Card bill.

Our May 13 meeting also includes an opportunity to learn from ATIR

members who will share their personal experiences of support to refugees through housing, visits to detention centers, transportation to immigration hearings, and access to other essential resources.

All UUCV members and friends are warmly invited. Light refreshments will be available, and attendees may bring and share their favorite snacks or beverage.

For information or questions, please contact Ray Vargas, [rtvargas@gmail.com](mailto:rtvargas@gmail.com)

## May Inreach/Outreach

**May 5: Planned Parenthood California Central Coast** is a safety-net provider of sexual and reproductive health care. They own and operate five health centers in San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Thousand Oaks and nearly 32,000 patients rely on their health services annually. Last year, nearly 8,000 teens and adults relied on their Ventura Health Center for their sexual and reproductive health services. Their mission is to promote the ability of all individuals to lead fulfilled lives, build healthy families, and make informed decisions through high-quality health

services, education, and advocacy. The Ventura Health Center is licensed by the State of California as a community clinic and Family PACT provider of sexual and reproductive health care. They also provide birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, and other family planning services, as well as contribute to the reduction and prevention of unintended/teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STI).

**May 12: Lift Up Your Voice Rainy Days Motel Fund** We are often presented with situations where people need 2 nights in a motel to catch their breath and we can refer them out to case managers or a shelter

**May 19: The Salvation Army Safe Sleep Case Management.** UUCV operates one of two designated parking lots within the city of Ventura where people who are experiencing homelessness may sleep in their cars without fear of being ticketed or harassed

Dedicated UUCV volunteers as well as officers from a nearby security company monitor the lot; UUCV

volunteers oversee the Safe Sleep Program at UUCV.

People who are homeless are often forced to let their car registration, driver's license and car insurance lapse for lack of funds. Without these items being up to date, they cannot enter the Safe Sleep program. Worse yet, their cars are often impounded by the police; they have no money to pay impound fees, and they lose their vehicle — the only home they have left.

Funds will get people who are seeking entry into the Safe Sleep program insurance, license and/or registration as needed. The Safe Sleep Program is a good path toward housing. UUCV hosts a maximum of 10 vehicles at a time. The average participant stays a little over two months. Two thirds of our Safe Sleep guests have moved on to some form of housing through participating in the program.

**May 26: UUCV Inreach/Outreach** helps those in our own congregation or someone in the wider community who is in need of assistance.

### Inreach/Outreach Recipients

Your generosity toward those who ask for our help continues to be amazing!

**March 17: LUYV Park Outreach and Speakers Bureau-**\$843.

**March 24 - PLanned Parenthood -**\$1097.

**March 31: National Center for Science Education-** \$924.

**April 7: MICOP-**\$1069.

*Thanks for all your donations!*



# Religious Education May 2019



	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
NURSERY	WE PROVIDE A CARING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR TODDLERS AND INFANTS TO NURTURE THEIR EMOTIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL GROWTH WITH PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND ROUTINES.			
PRE-K RAINBOW CONNECTION	I BELIEVE IN ME	MOTHER'S DAY	PEACE IS MORE PLEASANT	WE CARE FOR THE EARTH
GRADES K-2 PICTURE BOOK UU	HENRY WORKS	LOVE YOU FOREVER	ALL I SEE IS PART OF ME	GOLDEN RULE
GRADES 3-5 SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE	TREASURE MAPS AND N.C. WYETH	A VISITOR	HENRY DAVID THOREAU	P.T. BARNUM, UNIVERSALIST
GRADES 6-8 JEDI ACADEMY	WISDOM COUNCIL	FAIR AND FREE WORLD	INTERCONNECTED WEB	JEDI TRIALS
GRADES 9+	YOUTH HAVE SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION BASED ON THE SOUL MATTERS THEME: CURIOSITY!			
OUR WHOLE LIVES	COMMUNICATING SEXUALITY	No OWL FOR MOTHER'S DAY	SELF-CARE, CELEBRATION, AND CLOSURE	N/A

## NEWS from Religious Education • Emily Carroll, DRE

Last month I went to an 8-day centering prayer retreat at a Benedictine monastery outside Aspen! Most people are intrigued by the grand silence (i.e. not even eye contact), but the silence isn't the end goal. The silence creates an interior atmosphere where the real concerns of life can rise up, where I can deepen intimacy with the divine light within, and get back in touch with mind, body, and spirit. Although I had intended not to read, *Reaching Out* by Henri Nouwen seemed to reach right off the shelf at me, and I read the book twice over the course of the retreat because it met me exactly where I was on the spiritual path.

For instance, Nouwen writes: "How can we live a healthy and creative life when... the fate of millions are poor, sick, hungry, and persecuted... maybe for the time being we have to accept the many fluctuations between knowing and not knowing, seeing and not seeing, feeling and not feeling... between the humble confession that the newspaper holds more than our souls can bear and the realization that it is only through facing up to the reality of our world that we grow into our responsibility."

Very often he simply asked the same questions that I've been asking, with a suggestion for further exploration offered as a response. With this month's theme being curiosity, let's lift up our 4th principle: a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Commitment to philosophical, spiritual, and moral exploration within a faith that has space for each to evolve, change, and grow, is my very favorite thing about Unitarian Universalism.

*In Faith,*

*Emily Carroll, Director of Religious Education [emily@uuventura.org](mailto:emily@uuventura.org)*

Happy Birthday

*May Birthdays*

4 - Anthony, 5 - Noah, 11 - Arlo, 27 - AhMun, 28 - Kathryn, 31 Hawk,

### May Events

**Sunday - May 5 • 11:30AM**

Family Hike after service

**Saturday - May 11 • 5PM**

UU PARENTING GROUP & POTLUCK

THEME: RAISING DAUGHTERS

**Sunday - May 12**

**Mother's Day**

**Friday - May 24 • 7:30PM**

Young Adult Discussion & Dinner

# UU Things To Do • Adult Programs

**A**dult Programs is bursting with opportunities for connection, reflection and growth. Check the newsletter and Adult Programs Board for info about additional classes. For information on ongoing programs, pick up an Adult Programs brochure at the AP Bulletin Board in Berg Hall. **Programs are open to all unless otherwise indicated.**



## Meditation and Buddhist Practice

with Friendship Sangha of the Heart

Monday • 7PM • Church Sanctuary

• **Evening of Mindfulness** includes sitting and walking meditation, a dharma reading and dharma sharing. All are welcome.

<http://FriendshipSangha.org/meditation>

• **Intro to Meditation** Monday, May 13 at 6:30PM in Sanctuary. Information:

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

Contact: Neal Ortenberg 805/368-9835 or [FriendshipSangha@gmail.com](mailto:FriendshipSangha@gmail.com).

Website [FriendshipSangha.org](http://FriendshipSangha.org)

Sponsored by the Friendship Sangha of the Heart, a UUCV Adult Program

## UU Thursday Book Group

Thursday • 10-11:15AM • GREEN ROOM

**W**e read non-fiction and meet weekly. Books with wide-ranging topics are recommended by members and are chosen by consensus. Discussions are wide-ranging and lively. Both congregation members and non-members are warmly welcomed. Contact: Marcy Burns, [mburns4430@roadrunner.com](mailto:mburns4430@roadrunner.com).



## Fun Book Club • May 26

Sunday • 11:45AM • Conference Room

**T**his fiction book group meets for 60-90 minutes after services. All are welcome. May book is *Fruit of the Drunken Tree* by Ingrid Rojas Contreras. Contact: Kappy Paulson 805/647-1600 [kmp160@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmp160@sbcglobal.net).

## Men's Breakfast Bunch

Saturday • May 4 • 9AM

Carrows, 2401 Harbor Blvd. Ventura

**J**oin us for food and conversation. We are better together. All men welcome. Contact: Ray Escobedo, 805/658-8543 [ray.escobedo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ray.escobedo@sbcglobal.net).

## Drop In Men's Discussion Group

Tuesday • 9:30AM • Conference Room

**W**e discuss political and social issues and current events. All men welcome. Contact: Bill Peltola 805/320-6175 or 805/486-1348.

## Open Men's Support Group

1st & 3rd Thursdays • 7-9PM • Garage

**E**njoy fellowship, camaraderie and personal sharing. Contact: Dale Condra, 805/212-0242, [dale15roie@gmail.com](mailto:dale15roie@gmail.com)

## Handicrafters Meet

2nd & 4th Thursday • 2:30PM • Off-site

**B**ring your project be it knitting, crochet, weaving, beading, sewing (or you name it) for an afternoon of lively conversation. If you are stuck on a project we are here to help. Of course we always have yummy snacks. Contact Shelah Wilgus, 805/658-7245, [preblest@mac.com](mailto:preblest@mac.com).

## Many Paths Group

1st & 3rd Tuesday • 2PM • Green Room

**A**n open spiritual group for all beliefs, with group participation. Questions? Contact Helen McPherson [athelenmac42@gmail.com](mailto:athelenmac42@gmail.com) or 805/889-9075. We are no longer holding meditation on Sunday mornings.

## Women's Voices: Discussion and Support Group

1st & 3rd Tuesday • 11-1PM • Green Room

**A** drop-in women's group explores women's roles and issues. Open to all women. Contacts: Suzanne Olsen, 805/701-1024, [suzth2@charter.net](mailto:suzth2@charter.net).

## T'ai Chi Chih® class

Monday • 5:30 - 6:30PM • Sanctuary

**A**gentle, moving meditation practice promoting balance, physical fitness, and inner calm. **Beginners welcome.** The 1st & 5th Monday are silent, group practice (no instruction).

Donation: \$10 per class (check to UUCV) First class is FREE! Info at Adult Programs table. Contact: Lisa Otero 805/766-1342

## The Watercolor Group

Wednesday • Noon-2:30PM • BERG HALL



**E**veryone is welcome. No experience necessary. We offer informal instruction, encouragement, and interesting conversation.

Contact Veronica Bear [veronicabear2000@yahoo.com](mailto:veronicabear2000@yahoo.com).

## UUniques Potluck

Thursday, May 23 • 6:30PM • Berg Hall

**P**lease join us for an evening of good food and conversation. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. Both a presentation and a tour is planned for May. Details will be available at a later date. For information Merle or Pat 805/642-6316 or [3723emlo@gmail.com](mailto:3723emlo@gmail.com)



## Strong Bones 1 (Beginning)

Monday • 1:30PM • Sanctuary

Wednesday • 1:30PM • Sanctuary

## Strong Bones 2 (Intermediate)

Monday • 2:30PM • Sanctuary

Wednesday • 2:30PM • Sanctuary

**O**pen to all and work at your pace. \$4/class, bring light weights, and stretch bands if you have them. Contact: Suzi Axtell, instructor, [suzi@axtell.com](mailto:suzi@axtell.com)

# UU Things To Do • Adult Programs



**UU Hikers**  
**May 4**  
**(1st Saturday)**  
**8AM**

May's hike will be a return to Tri Peaks, an eight mile loop in the Circle X ranch area of the Santa Monica Mountains. The elevation gain is 1000'. This is a challenging but very rewarding hike. We will visit Balance Rock, Split Rock, the impressive Tri Peaks Crevasse, Inspiration Point and the highest peak in the Santa Monica's, Sandstone Peak. As always we will set a leisurely pace. Be sure you are on Mike's e-mail list to receive more information one week before our outing. Contact Mike Sixbey at 805/205-4032 or Joyce Sattler at 805/320-4437.

## Upcoming Open Mic Night:

**Saturday, May 18 • 6PM in Berg Hall**

We have a wealth of musical talent in our church family. But did you know that we also have standup comics, poets and storytellers? Some of these talented people participate in our Sunday services and make a beautiful contribution to worship.

At Open Mic they can let loose with performances that can be funny, serious, personal, or political—in other words—wide open! Come to our next Open Mic and be entertained while providing a supportive audience to our performers.

Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be available. Join us and see another side of your church friends.

And if you have the desire, but have lacked the confidence to perform, there is no more supportive audience with which to give it a try. Info email Kent Brinkmeyer—[kentbrinkmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:kentbrinkmeyer@gmail.com)



## "Teach-In/Act-Out"

**A day of building advocates for immigrants and refugees**

*Sponsored by Unitarian Universalists' ATIR, CLUE of Ventura Co. & CAUSE*

**Sat, June 8, 2019 - 9:30AM - 2:30PM**

*Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura*

Learn about: Immigration law past and present • Why refugees are coming • Immigrant detention centers and visitation • Asylum and sanctuary as expressions of faith • What's happening on the border now

*Childcare available with pre-registration only. Please indicate you need childcare by taking a free ticket. Light refreshments provided - Lunch available for purchase. Suggested donation: \$15 by May 31, \$20 at the door*

**Registration:** [www.Eventbrite.com/e/teach-inact-out-tickets-59340196124](http://www.Eventbrite.com/e/teach-inact-out-tickets-59340196124)

Information, email: [susan.franzblau@gmail.com](mailto:susan.franzblau@gmail.com)



**May 3 • The Great Debaters, 2007, PG-13.**

This uplifting and intelligent film tells the true story of an undefeated debating team at the historically black Wiley College, one of the finest black colleges in the U.S. In 1935, when lynchings were still common in their home state of Texas, the Wiley team was invited to debate Harvard University. An outstanding cast includes Forrest Whitaker and his son Denzel Whitaker playing a father/son pair. Denzel Washington stars and directed.

**May 10 • Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day, 2008, PG-13.**

This mostly lightweight romantic comedy co-stars Frances McDormand and Amy Adams as two opposite personalities. McDormand is a desperate out-of-work nanny whose gruff personality makes her nearly unemployable. Adams is a glamorous American starlet who employs her. Director Bharat Nalluri.

**May 17 • What Maisie Knew, 2013, R for some language.**

Determined 6-year-old Maisie finds love, security and a new family amidst the craziness of the adults around her, as her contentious parents split up, then enter into ill-conceived new relationships. Based on the novel by Henry James. The child actress, Onata Aprile, will win your heart. Stars Julianne Moore, Alexander Skarsgård, and Steve Coogan. Directors Scott McGehee and David Siegel.

**May 24 • Ghost Town, 2008, PG-13.**

This comedy drama is constructed on the principle that people sometimes linger as ghosts after they die until they can tie up loose ends in the lives they leave behind. The central character, played by British comedian Ricky Gervais, finds himself in a dilemma after he was brought back to life during a botched surgery. With a new ability to see and interact with ghosts, he is deluged with their demands for his help. Co-stars Greg Kinnear, Téa Leoni, and Kristen Wiig. Director David Koepp.

**May 31 • Martian Child, 2007, PG.**

A recently widowed sci-fi writer adopts a 6-year-old boy. He's a terrific kid, but a bit different, since he claims to be from Mars. This wonderful comedy drama is full of surprises, and the cast also features Amanda Peet and Joan Cusack. Director Menno Meyjes.

Contact: Julie Moore: [verfamilyvideos@aol.com](mailto:verfamilyvideos@aol.com)

# Committee News



## Buildings and Grounds

by Linda Pietrzak

It was a drizzling morning but eight dedicated souls braved the rain and got a lot done in preparation for Easter Sunday.

Jim Merrill checked that the lighting in the sanctuary was working properly. Wil Devine got rid of the cobwebs and leaves along the entrance to the church. Linda Pietrzak pulled weeds in the cracks in the parking lot and walkway as well as the Olive Tree garden. Sherry Anderson planted flowers and pulled weeds near the entrance to the parking lot.

To get ready for the "Canned Food Hunt" for Easter in the back of the church Michael Akseven, Kitty Merrill, and Linda Pietrzak cut back the over zealous bushes in the raised beds and swept up the walkway. Lisa Otero and Dennis Charles worked on pulling weeds and straightening up the Meditation Path. Dennis and Kitty pulled weeds in one of the parking lot islands.

Jim and Sherry picked up trash; sad it is such a never-ending chore. Wil secured the banner out front so more people can see one of the ideals we stand for, He also fixed the Foosball table (who knew we had a Foosball table?) and went shopping for odds and ends that needed replacing, were missing from our tool supply, or are needed to work on future projects.

**The next Work Party is May 18.** It should be a good month to get the grounds ready for summer. We'd love to have you come out. There is no obligation. You just have to want to give some time to the church and get to know some new people.

**News from THE BOOKSTORE!**  
Come by and get your Equal Exchange  
Coffee and Chocolate.

Our excellent Equal Exchange coffee is now \$8 a package.

## Finance News and Views, May 2019

Having an opportunity for members to review the draft budget before it became the budget recommended to the board of trustees by the finance committee was an important part of the budget writing process this year. Rather than function as a meeting where you could see a presentation of the budget recommended to the board this year's meeting provided a chance for member input to be considered as part of the budget process.

The two issues that received the most attention at this unveiling of the draft were, should we not set aside \$10,000 for major maintenance this year, and should we decrease the amount set aside for sabbatical funding for the minister for next year. The finance committee and the board of trustees considered objections to these decreases for next year and the board completed the budget writing process at their May meeting.

Thanks to all who attended this draft budget discussion and for providing comments about important funding issues for next year. For comments, criticism or questions, contact David Smith at [davidpaseo001@gmail.com](mailto:davidpaseo001@gmail.com) or 805/216-9331.

## 2019 Nominations - Slate of Candidates

*Board of Trustees, Leadership Development Committee, and Endowment & Memorial Fund Committees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura*

Submitted by the 2019 Leadership Development Committee

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(1-YEAR TERM FOR VICE PRESIDENT, 2-YEAR TERM FOR ALL OTHER TRUSTEES)

POSITION	INCUMBENT	NOMINEE	TERM EXPIRES
PRESIDENT	BRYAN BUCK	(CONTINUING)	2020
VICE PRESIDENT	JANICE FRANK	LISA CONNOLLY	2020
TREASURE	JIM WALDRON	(CONTINUING)	2020
SECRETARY	VEL LINDEN	SILVIA HUTCHINS	2021
TRUSTEE	RON DALLAS	RON DALLAS	2021
TRUSTEE	KENT BRINKMEYER	KENT BRINKMEYER	2021
TRUSTEE	YUKIO OKANO	(CONTINUING)	2020

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (2-YEAR TERM)

POSITION	INCUMBENT	NOMINEE	TERM EXPIRES
MEMBER	CAROLYN BRIGGS	(CONTINUING)	2020
MEMBER	WIL DEVINE	(CONTINUING)	2020
MEMBER	MADELAINE OKANO	(CONTINUING)	2020
MEMBER	KATHY SWIFT	GUDRUN EASTHAM	2021
CHAIR	GARY ZINIK	GARY ZINIK	2021

### ENDOWMENT & MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEES (3-YEAR TERM)

POSITION	INCUMBENT	NOMINEE	TERM EXPIRES
MEMBER	ANNETTE HECK	(CONTINUING)	2020
MEMBER	DENNIS CHARLES	(CONTINUING)	2021
MEMBER	KAPPY PAULSON	(CONTINUING)	2021
MEMBER	CHERYL GILBERT	(CONTINUING)	2021
MEMBER	ALLEN BALL	(CONTINUING)	2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP IV 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - PASTORAL ASSOCIATES MTG 7PM - MEN'S GROUP 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>2</b> 10AM - BOOK CLUB 5PM - WORSHIP ASSOCIATES MEETING 5:30PM - LUYV PIZZA PARTY	<b>3</b> 8AM - WOMENS RETREAT (OFF-SITE) 7PM - MOVIE NIGHT	<b>4</b> 8AM - WOMENS RETREAT (OFF-SITE) 8AM - UU HIKERS 9AM - MEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH
<b>5</b> 8AM - WOMENS RETREAT (OFF-SITE) 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM - NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 11:45AM - WOMEN'S GROUP 11:45AM - OWL	<b>6</b> 1PM - WOMEN'S GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - COVENANT GROUP 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 7PM - MEDITATION	<b>7</b> 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - WOMEN'S VOICES 11AM - STAFF MEETING 2PM - MANY PATHS 6PM - COVENANT GROUP 6:30PM - MEN'S GROUP II 7PM - BELOVED CONVERSATIONS	<b>8</b> 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VIII 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 6PM - LEADERSHIP COMM. MTG 6PM - AIDS QUILTING 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>9</b> 10AM - BOOK CLUB 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP VI 2:30PM - HANDICRAFT GROUP 6PM - LUYV 6:30PM - 7PEAT & CLIMATE HUB 6:30PM - B&G MEETING	<b>10</b> 3PM - SCRAPBOOKING 7PM - MOVIE NIGHT	<b>11</b> 5PM - UU PARENTING GROUP
<b>12</b> <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30AM - RE TEACHER MEETING 11:30AM - HUMANIST GROUP	<b>13</b> 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP V 1PM - COVENANT GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 6PM - IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS ACTION 6:30PM - INTRO TO MEDITATION 7PM - MEDITATION	<b>14</b> 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - STAFF MEETING 1PM - CONNECTING COMM. MEETING 4PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VII 4:30PM - CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP 6:30PM - FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 7PM - MEN'S GROUP IV	<b>15</b> 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP IV 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 02PM - WOMENS GROUP 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 7PM - MEN'S GROUP 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>16</b> 10AM - BOOK CLUB 6PM - BOARD OF TRUSTEES 6PM - LEADERSHIP DEV. MEETING	<b>17</b> 7PM - MOVIE NIGHT	<b>18</b> 9AM - ALL CHURCH B&G WORK PARTY 6PM - OPEN MIC NIGHT
<b>19</b> 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30AM - SPEAKER - SARADA 11:45AM - WOMEN'S GROUP 11:45AM - OWL	<b>20</b> 1PM - WOMEN'S GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - COVENANT GROUP 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 7PM - MEDITATION	<b>21</b> 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - WOMEN'S VOICES 11AM - STAFF MEETING 1:30PM - PUBLICITY MEETING 2PM - MANY PATHS 6PM - COVENANT GROUP 6:30PM - MEN'S GROUP V 6:30PM - MEN'S GROUP II 6:45PM - WOMEN'S GRP III 7PM - BELOVED CONVERSATIONS	<b>22</b> 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VIII 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 6PM - AIDS QUILTING 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>23</b> 10AM - BOOK CLUB 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP VI 2:30PM - HANDICRAFT GROUP 6:30PM - UUUNIQUES 50+ POTLUCK	<b>24</b> 7PM - MOVIE NIGHT 7:30PM - YOUNG ADULT GROUP	<b>25</b> 2PM - RE WORK PARTY
<b>26</b> 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30AM - FUN BOOK CLUB 11:30AM - SAFETY TEAM MEETING 11:30AM - HUMANIST GROUP	<b>27 OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> 11AM - WOMENS GROUP V 1PM - COVENANT GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 6PM - SOCIAL ACTION MEETING 7PM - MEDITATION	<b>28</b> 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - STAFF MEETING 4PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VII 6PM - COV. GRP. FACILITATOR MTG 7PM - MEN'S GROUP	<b>29</b> 11AM - NEWSLETTER FOLDING 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 07PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	<b>30</b> 10AM - BOOK CLUB	<b>31</b> 7PM - MOVIE NIGHT	

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura

5654 Ralston Street, Ventura, CA 9303

### 2017-18 Board of Trustees

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*In Memoriam*  
**George Eugene Tillquist**  
**March 22, 1930-April 5, 2019**



A much-loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, George Eugene Tillquist of Ventura, CA, passed away peacefully at the age of 89. George was born to Katharine and George Tillquist on March 22, 1930, in Chicago, IL. The eldest of three, George received his BS in Chemical Engineering from Northwestern University and is a graduate of Stanford University Graduate School of Business, Financial Management Program.

George retired from ARCO (Atlantic Richfield Co.) after 35 years. Upon retirement, he held the title of Secretary of the Executive Committee, having previously served as Director of Strategic Planning and Technology.

After moving to Ventura, he was an active member of the community, serving as Chair of the Library Advisory Commission; Seize the Future Citizens Outreach Committee for the City of San Buenaventura. In addition, he served on the First Five Children and Families First Commission of Ventura County. He had volunteered with United Way, American Red Cross, FEMA, VC Homeless and Housing Coalition, CA Emergency Housing and Assistance Program, California Care Safety-Net Funds, FOOD Share, Elderhostel, AARP, Ventura County Community Foundation, Ventura College Foundation Board Emeritus, and many others.

George is survived by his beloved wife Eleanor of nearly 67 years, sister Mary Anderson, his children Linda Francis (husband Gaby), Donald Tillquist (wife Kathy), Lorraine Tillquist, and David Tillquist (wife Karen); ten grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 15 at 1PM at UUCV. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Ventura College Foundation - George Tillquist Engineering Scholarship fund or the Ventura County Community Foundation - George Tillquist Engineering Scholarship. His Spirit will forever live in the lives of those he touched.