



CVUUF MONTHLY

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Our mission is to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion.

Upcoming Sunday Services

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This newsletter is published monthly. Download your copy on our website at www.cvuuf.org.

Deadline for articles or photos is the 24th day of each month at 6pm. Direct submissions to: newsletter@cvuuf.org
Content may be edited by the newsletter editor.

Weekly News & Notes

(Sunday handouts/ weekly email)
Email submissions to: newsandnotes@cvuuf.org

Visit us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/CVUUF>



January 3 — Coffin and Cradle Ceremony

— Worship Associate Lorella Thomas Hess

At the turning of the year, the theme of endings and beginnings is everywhere. Recognizing that we have the ability to change, many of us resolve to make our future different from our past. What will we leave behind in 2015? What will we nurture in the new year? For this participatory service, tokens of things to be buried in the past will be deposited in our Coffin, and tokens symbolizing hopes and plans for the future will be deposited in our Cradle.

January 10 — The Most Important Question(s)

— Reverend Anne Felton Hines

As we step into 2016, what is the most important question we should be asking ourselves? Is there only one? And is there only one answer? And are the questions and answers different for individuals and for a congregation?

January 17 — Still in Need of His Voice

— Reverend Anne Felton Hines

On the weekend when we will be honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., what important lessons would he still have for us today, as we continue to struggle for racial and economic justice? This weekend is the kickoff for our denomination's "30 Days of Love," a part of the "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign.

January 24 — On Being Spiritually Courageous

— Reverend Anne Felton Hines

The Mission of CVUUF "is to nurture spiritually courageous people..." but what does that look like? How do we know when we are "spiritually courageous?" And what does it mean for who you are as a congregation?

January 31 — I'm Not Sorry. I Don't Forgive You.

— Writer Michael Hart, Member of First Unitarian Church, Los Angeles

Almost every religious tradition — certainly Christianity and Judaism — suggests that forgiveness is a virtue. But we can all think of times when we felt justified in refusing to apologize or to not forgive somebody. Is forgiveness always the right course to take? Are there times when an apology is not in order, even when we know we've damaged, hurt or offended someone we care about?

CVUUF Sundays on CD: Recordings of most Sunday services are available on audio CD. They may be purchased for a \$3 donation, made at time of order. All proceeds go to the Library Fund. Order yours at the Library bookcase in Social Hall and do remember to pick up the CDs you've ordered!



In the Meantime...

Reverend Anne Felton Hines

minister@cvuuf.org

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The day after the terrorist attacks in San Bernardino, I e-mailed Reverend Gifford Smith, co-chair of the Conejo Valley Interfaith Association, asking him if this group was planning to issue any statement of support for American Muslims; he asked if I'd like to draft one and bring it to our meeting scheduled for the following week. (Note to self: Don't ask if something's being done unless you're willing to do it!)

This would be my first meeting with this group of representatives from a variety of faith traditions in the Conejo Valley – Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon and more; I really had little idea what to expect. But I took my draft of a statement that expressed our dismay at the tragedy, and our recognition that the attacks were in no way reflective of Islam.

It opened up a wonderful conversation between the 35-40 people there that day, with some excellent suggestions given for improvement on the statement. Over the next couple of days I did some re-writing, received a few more suggestions, and finally sent off this final draft to Rev. Smith. He submitted it to the *Ventura Star* and they have published it:

We, the members of the Conejo Valley Interfaith Association, deeply mourn the tragic deaths caused by all acts of terrorism throughout the world, including the recent deaths of the fourteen innocent victims in San Bernardino. Our hearts break for those who lost their lives or were injured, as well as for the deep loss experienced by their loved ones and their communities.

As people of faith, we stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers of the American Muslim community. They, too, mourn these deaths; as frequent victims of extremist violence themselves, they, too, share the same concerns of all Americans, indeed, citizens of the world over, for the threat terrorism poses.

We understand Islam to be a religion of peace, not reflective of the extremism that encourages hatred and violence. Therefore, we deplore the growing political and religious rhetoric of fear and discrimination directed at Muslims, particularly when expressed by those in leadership positions, who carry an added responsibility for defending our American ideals of religious freedom.

We implore all people across our nation, as do we pledge ourselves, to uphold our nation's ideals of human dignity and religious understanding, reminding us that in the end, all people – no matter our religious beliefs – are children of a loving Creator.

December 11, 2015

In the first days of the new year, I will be contacting the local Imam to express some of the sentiments reflected in that statement, and to ask how we at CVUUF might offer our support. I hope you will join me in reaching out to our sisters and brothers of the Muslim faith, as we assure them that we stand in solidarity with them.

Let this be a year of re-commitment to our Unitarian Universalist (and American) visions of compassion, freedom and religious understanding. Knowing the challenges we face, may we support one another in this noble endeavor.

Anne

Minister's Schedule

Minister's Schedule: Rev. Anne will be in Redwood City January 30-February 1, speaking at the Installation of Rev. Stefanie Etzbach-Dale at the UU Fellowship of Redwood City. She will be responding to e-mail when possible.

The Pastoral Care Committee (pastoralcare@cvuuf.org), may also be contacted for urgent pastoral matters.

President's Message



Willie Lubka
president@cvuuf.org

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I've always thought the season when we celebrate the start of a new year was oddly timed – arriving in the early days of winter. Spring seems like a more appropriate time, when the cold and darkness of winter give way to sunshine and the color of new flowers. And yet, the perennial symbols of the year ending in December and a new beginning in January are powerful and inexorable. So, as we say farewell to a momentous year and turn the page to 2016, I wish you a happy New Year!

A new year calls us to reflect and be mindful of our lives, to consider our goals, let go of regrets and resentments, acknowledge bad habits and resolve to overcome them, and to redirect our course toward closer alignment with the values and priorities we care about most.

Before we say goodbye to 2015, let us take some time to look back at the struggles of the past year, personally, in the community, and in the world. Let us remember and remind ourselves of the strength and courage we showed, the wisdom we gained, and the support we found. Let us reflect on the good times too and remember what brought the most joy.

Our congregation has had an amazing year, dealing with major transitions with confidence, generosity, a spirit of connection, and dedication to our mission. We've shared the experience, listened to each other, and voiced our hopes for the future. We are in a strong position to grow and thrive in the year ahead.

Let us plant seeds of hope as we boldly embark on the New Year. I ask you, my fellow UU, what are your intentions and aspirations? What are your hopes for your loved ones? What are your dreams for our congregation? How are you planning to help make those dreams become a reality? I am so grateful for our community of love, service, and justice - a community brimming with energy, compassion, and generosity that touches hearts, changes lives, and transforms the world.

Marge Piercy's poem "The Birthday of the World" is a vital message for all people of good faith as we walk forward together in this new year.

See you on Sunday,

Willie

The Birthday of the World by Marge Piercy

*On the birthday of the world
I begin to contemplate
what I have done and left
undone, but this year
not so much rebuilding
of my perennially damaged
psyche, shoring up eroding
friendships, digging out
stumps of old resentments
that refuse to rot on their own.
No, this year I want to call
myself to task for what
I have done and not done
for peace. How much have
I dared in opposition?
How much have I put
on the line for freedom?
For mine and others?
As these freedoms are pared,
sliced and diced, where
have I spoken out? Who
have I tried to move? In
this holy season, I stand
self-convicted of sloth
in a time when lies choke
the mind and rhetoric
bends reason to slithering
choking pythons. Here
I stand before the gates
opening, the fire dazzling
my eyes, and as I approach
what judges me, I judge
myself. Give me weapons
of minute destruction. Let
my words turn into sparks.*



Religious Education News

Samantha Dickerson, Director of Religious Education (DRE)
dre@cvuuf.org

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My goodness, is it 2016 already?

We are almost at the midpoint of the year. It's stunning how quickly it goes by! But if fun is being had by all, then our time is being spent well, isn't it?

In January, our classes will return to the year's curriculums, welcoming and exploring faiths from around the world. Also this month, some of our youth will be starting Coming of Age. This year's advisors are Erik Halseth and Dana Ryon. I can't wait to see what wonderful journeys this group will take!

This month I would love to introduce you to our Upper Elementary teachers—Theresa Cho-Miller, Lorella Hess, Merlin Snider, and Tom Wolf. They have the great task of working with our 2nd-5th graders on Moral Tales, inviting discussion on faiths and points of view from all walks of life. Our teachers do a wonderful job with embracing this imaginative group of children. Every time I step into their classroom, the teachers have genuine smiles and it's infectious. Thank you for giving our children a place they truly enjoy being in!



Looking for Children Chalice Lighters!

We are changing things up a bit when it comes to inviting our young ones to light the chalice during first service. We now have sign-ups for our families to commit to coming in on a particular Sunday of choice and take a small but important part in the service. This will allow us to stop the last minute rush in finding a chalice lighter and, as an exciting bonus, add the child's name to the Order of Service. If your young one is interested in assisting at a service during the month of January, please contact Sam Dickerson.

News From Our Outreach Director

Pamela Lopez

outreachdirector@cvuuf.org



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We're thrilled to be presenting another fabulous evening with **Roy Zimmerman on Saturday, January 23rd** with his new show, "This Machine." The concert starts at 8:00, with tickets going for \$18 each (or pay what you can). See full details in this newsletter.

We are making some adjustments to the process of how special collections are determined. If you are passionate about a local non-profit you support, please bring that suggestion to me or Rev. Anne. We hope to be able to meet these requests about every four months.

The good and bad news is we've been providing more and more meals for our guests at Feeding Hands. Last month we served 135 dinners. Join us for this very satisfying service project. **Tuesday, January 5th** will be our monthly contribution to **Feeding Hands at Calvary Church**. Cooks, servers and greeters are always welcome to come and join and we provide a wonderful meal and welcome each month to over 100 of our neighbors.

The monthly meeting of **Citizens Climate Lobby** will be in the Board Room on Sunday, **January 10th at 12:30pm**. We expect exciting news out of the Paris conference. Come by and see what's up.

Also, **Sunday January 10th** is the mandatory **Parent Orientation meeting for this year's OWL classes** (Our Whole Lives). As mentioned, the program is being rolled out to the general public this year, and it's a great way to introduce your friends (with kids) to this excellent program. The actual classes start on Sunday, January 24.

Our new **humanist group** is exploring ideas for community forums as well as other activities – both within CVUUF and the Humanist Community of Ventura County. The monthly meeting is **Sunday, January 17th at 12:15pm**.

At last June's General Assembly a Statement of Conscience was passed in a stand for Reproductive Justice, and out of that our Reproductive Justice Team was born. Last month's meeting featured a policy speaker from Planned Parenthood. They may need our help soon with some issues on the horizon. We will let you know as soon as we do. The **Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network** annual Roe vs. Wade anniversary event is **Sunday, January 24th**. Keep an eye out for more information on that.

Here are a couple of things to mark in your calendar for February:

Friday, February 5 – 7:30PM in the Sanctuary. **Community Forum** - David Klein Ph.D. will discuss Capitalism & Climate Change: The Science & Politics of Global Warming

Big plans coming from the **Escalating Inequality** group as "Ventura Stories" is scheduled for **Saturday, February 20th** (mark your calendars). This is an all-day inter-active workshop on economic issues that we all face in Ventura County. This event is headed by Michael Teasdale, Matthew Weisman and Pamela Lopez, along with community leaders from other justice organizations within the county. The workshop is free of charge, and if you are interested in attending or volunteering, please contact any one of the three of us.

For information on any of the activities mentioned above, please contact me at outreachdirector@cvuuf.org.



Public Yule Ritual and Pot Luck Saturday, January 2 6:00pm

Curious what a Pagan worship service is like? Want to reconnect with the Earth? Join in a Norse celebration of Yule in story and feast.

As we pass the winter solstice, let us celebrate the light and life within and toast our deities and our kindred! Let us come together as a community and revel in this time of togetherness, joy, and hope. Ritual starts at 6:00pm Saturday, January 2. The celebration continues with a potluck feast. No experience necessary!

If you have questions, please send an email to info@conejomoon.org.



CVUUF Welcomes You!

People come to our congregations in many ways.

- ◆ Some research carefully, devouring every word on a congregation's website before entering the building.
- ◆ Some are drawn in by a newspaper story or an event poster, and decide to come and check the congregation out.
- ◆ Some have been wounded in their former faith communities and seek a community more in line with their values and theology.
- ◆ Some have never belonged to any faith community, and are longing for spirituality and community.
- ◆ Some seek religious education for their children and youth that teaches strong values while allowing for theological diversity.
- ◆ Some want to be part of a faith community that believes social justice work is at the heart of what it means to be religious.
- ◆ Others long for worship that moves their spirits and engages both heart and mind.

All of these people, and many more, come to our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship hungry for what we offer. Whether you are new to UU, a lifelong UU, member, or visitor, we welcome you. We're glad you came, and hope you will spend some time getting to know us, and getting involved in the work that we do towards our mission.

New Introductory UU Class

Please join us on January 10th, from 12:30- 2 pm at CVUUF for our **New UU Class**. This class is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism. In a small group setting you will spend time with our minister covering the historical roots of our denomination, our beliefs and principles, and personal spiritual journeys. Please RSVP to Annie Barker 805.415.4918 or membershipdirector@cvuuf.org

Save the Dates:

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- CVUUF Financials Workshop: Saturday January 9, 2016, 11:00am
- New UU Introduction Class: Sunday, January 10, 12:30 to 2:00pm
- "El Nino" Regional Conference Citizens Climate Lobby: January 23-24, 2016
- Midyear Meeting: Sunday, January 24, 2016. 10:45am
- Community Forum-Climate Change: Friday, February 5, 7:30pm
- Escalating Inequality Interactive Workshop: Saturday, February 20, daytime event
- Annual CVUUF Auction: Saturday, March 26, 6:00pm
- PSWD District Assembly, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, April 29 – 30, 2016

ROY ZIMMERMAN: THIS MACHINE

Saturday, January 23, 8:00pm
\$18 or pay what you can.



What can one person do about climate change, torture, racism, gun violence, fracking, Congressional ineptitude, ignorance, war and greed? Write funny songs, says Roy Zimmerman. "This Machine" is ninety minutes of Zimmerman's hilarious, rhyme-intensive original songs. His songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime. He's shared stages with Bill Maher, Robin Williams, Ellen DeGeneres, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin. He's been profiled on NPR's "All Things Considered," and he's a featured blogger for the Huffington Post.

"Creation Science 101"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulwiPsgRrOs>

"The Big Republican Tent"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVM5LpJH5do>

"To Be a Liberal"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3qgiNPVp\\$M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3qgiNPVp$M)

"My Vote, My Voice, My Right"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-X-uBlqeVM>

CVUUF Women's Retreat, April 22 - 24, 2016

Deposit Due!

The \$50 deposit for next year's women's retreat is now due. The total cost to participate in the retreat is \$160 which includes meals and study materials. The weekend is a great opportunity to renew your spirit and deepen connections with women in the congregation.

Please make your check out to "CVUUF" and put "women's retreat" in the memo. You can mail, drop in the plate or place in the box outside Jessica's office.

Question? Andy Pletcher ([805-551-0456](tel:805-551-0456) andypletcher@gmail.com)

CVUUF Auction — Join The FUNdraising and Support Our Fellowship

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CVUUF will hold its largest fundraiser on March 26th, featuring a live auction and entertainment. Silent auction items can be bid on beginning Feb. 28th in the Fellowship Hall between services. Donations will be received beginning Jan. 10th at a table between services and every Sunday thereafter.

Some items are already posted on the support-fundraising part of the church website, <http://cvuuf.org/fundraising/> which has links to a website called yapsody (<http://cvuuf.yapsody.com>).

For those items, you have the option of paying with a credit card or through PayPal, or even a pay later option. If you have donated in the past, the committee welcomes events such as dinners (fixed price), trips, services donated from businesses or newish items in good condition. We have also set up an eBay site if you have an item to donate that might attract someone from the world at large.

If you have questions, please send them to fundraising@cvuuf.org and we will reply. Thank you for your past and future donations.



Women: Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights

Our women's rights initiative and Every Child is Our Child program are in collaboration to find ways to address sex education and teenage pregnancy in Ghana. For the 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) forum at the UN in March, we will assemble a panel to focus on lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women's experiences in working towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Racial Justice

Our event in early November entitled Confronting the Silence: Perspectives and Dialogues on Structural Racism against People of African Descent Worldwide was the launching point for dialogue at the United Nations surrounding the oppression of people of African descent as a violation of human rights. We're currently working on research and networking to connect with stakeholders and faith leaders involved in the UN General Assembly Special Session on drug reform which will be in April 2016.

Climate Justice

Our delegation of UUA credentialed observers had a very successful experience at the COP21 international climate change conference in Paris! Learn more about the conference by checking out the ["UUs in Paris" Facebook group!](#)

LGBTQ

/Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Rights /Refuge & Asylum

The process for forming an NGO committee on LGBTQ human rights continues; contact unintern@uua.org if you or your congregation is interested in participating in the UU board for the committee! We're working on preparing for UU-UNO sponsored events at the January Creating Change conference in Chicago and the March Commission on the Status of Women forum at the UN.



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST District News

PSWD DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

April 29 – 30, 2016

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
1535 Santa Barbara Street,
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

WORKSHOP DEADLINE

JANUARY 12, 2015

Interested in presenting a workshop at District Assembly on April 29 and 30 in Santa Barbara? Applications can be found [online](#). For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Ken Brown at uurev@aol.com.

BREAK SILENCE

Sunday, January 17, 2015
4th Annual UU MLK Choral Music Festival
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
7304 Jordan Avenue, Canoga Park

CHALICE LIGHTERS FUNDING REQUEST

PSWD Chalice Lighters will assist Throop Unitarian Universalist Church in Pasadena, in their building revitalization efforts for their historic church. The building is being turned around by the generous donation of time and effort by church staff and members but it needs help from the Chalice Lighters too.

The Chalice Lighters funds will be focused on upgrading the three ground-floor restrooms so they are clean and visually appealing.

For further information about the PSWD Chalice Lighters program and to learn more about renovations to Throop, visit pswduua.org.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2016

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2016 is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime.

Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call [907-322-4966](tel:907-322-4966). We would love to share our Alaska with you!



WE are on the Side of Love

The national Standing on the Side of Love organization is "a community of people compelled to speak out against oppression, united in the common belief that love is the ultimate guiding force of our world."

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

"...We must not face terrorism with fear; love is the only thing that I know that can truly conquer hate. I call on our elected officials to lead on the side of love for refugees."

—Rev. Peter Morales, President
Unitarian Universalist Association

"... We can be our best selves, offering relief and resettlement to Syrian refugees who are survivors of the terrorism that killed the victims who lie dead in Beirut and Paris. Or we can close our borders and leave millions of refugees literally out in the cold this winter."

—Bill Schulz, President & CEO
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

RACIAL JUSTICE

Thirty Days of Love

Kicking off in the New Year on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend and concluding with a Valentine's Day transformation, the national Standing on the Side of Love team will be honoring and observing Thirty Days of Love---a time for love, community, and prophetic action. From Saturday, January 16 through Sunday, February 14, 2016 people of faith and conscience will show up for Black Lives Matter and racial justice throughout the country as part of this observance. Look for more details at www.standingonthesideoflove.org

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Chipping away at ROE v. WADE

In November, the Supreme Court announced that it will hear its first abortion case in nine years. *Whole Woman's Health v. Cole*, is focused on two new restrictions in the Texas law that will narrow access to abortion services by forcing some clinics to close. The earliest the Court will begin hearing the case is February 2016. Follow this case at www.supremecourt.gov.



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January 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						6:00pm>Midwinter Pagan Ritual and Potluck
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:15am>Worship Service with Religious Education for children; 10:15>Children's Choir Rehearsals; 11:00am>Worship Service with Childcare for younger children—High School RE; 12:15pm>Membership Committee; 1:00pm>Gaming Afternoon; 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	6:30pm>Finance Committee 7:15pm>Opal Covenant Group 7:30pm>MSC meeting	6:00pm> Free Meal Commitment	5:30pm>Stewardship Committee 6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Facilitators Circle 7:30pm>Meditation Group	9:45am>Jonquil Women's Group 7:30pm>Choir Rehearsal		11:00am>Church Financial Workshop 7:00pm>Movie Group
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for children; 10:15am> Children's Choir rehearsal; 11:00am>OWL Parent meeting 11:00am> Worship Service with Childcare for younger children—High School RE; 12:15>The Dharma Workshop 12:30pm>Citizens Climate Lobby 12:30pm>New UU Class 1:00pm>OWL Parent Meeting 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	7:00pm>Women's Evening Group 7:30pm> Drop-In Bookclub 7:30pm> MSC Meeting	9:45am> Gardenia Group 7:00pm>2nd Tuesday Chalice Circle 7:00pm>CVUUF Board of Trustees meeting	12:30pm>Daytime Book Club and Potluck 6:00pm> Overeaters Anonymous 7:30pm> Meditation Group	7:00pm>Sapphire Covenant Group 7:30pm> Choir Rehearsal		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for children; 10:15am> Children's Choir rehearsal; 11am> Worship Service with Childcare for younger children—High School RE; 1:00pm>3rd Sunday Chalice Circle 5:00pm>Movie Group 3 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting	1:45pm>3rd Monday Chalice Circle 7:30pm> MSC Meeting	7:00pm>Music Ministry	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm> 3rd Wed Chalice Circle 7:15> Transitions Group 7:30pm> Meditation Group	9:45am>Jonquil Women's Group 7:30pm>Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm>Movie Group1	8:00pm>Roy Zimmerman
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:15am> Worship Service with Religious Education for children; 10:15am> Children's Choir rehearsal; 10:45am>Mid-Year Fellowship Meeting 11am> Worship Service with Childcare for younger children—High School RE; 11:00am>Upper and Lower Elementary OWL 12:15pm>Dharma Group 1:00pm>High School OWL 1:00pm>Middle School OWL 5:00pm>Newcomer AA Meeting 6:00pm> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	7:00pm>Women's Evening Group 7:30pm> MSC Meeting	9:45am>Gardenia Group	6:00pm>Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm>Facilitators Circle 7:30pm> Meditation Group	7:30>Choir Rehearsal		
31	31 continued					
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Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

COVENANT OF GOOD RELATIONS

In order to assist us in fulfilling our mission to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion, we the members and friends of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship enter into this Covenant of Good Relations.

We, the members and friends of this congregation, value:

- Opening our hearts and minds to those who have traveled journeys unlike ours and whose strengths and challenges may be different from ours.
- A welcoming space for all to speak their truth respectfully.
- The importance of deep listening and respect for each other.
- Relationships with others of all ages, and the gifts that each generation brings to our community.
- The democratic process, through which we give voice to concerns and offer our time and energy to arrive at solutions.

In the wider community, we honor our responsibilities for upholding spiritual ideals, engaging in civil discourse with those of other religious traditions, and promoting our UU values.

In my interactions with others in this congregation, I will:

- Speak honestly and directly to the person(s) with whom I have a concern, using thoughtful, compassionate language.
- Forgive the errors and shortcomings of myself and others as we contribute to our shared ministry and express gratitude for the many gifts we bring.
- Assume good intentions in those with whom I disagree and examine my own part in the disagreement.
- Listen deeply to, and actively seek resolution with those concerned before engaging the Conflict Resolution Committee, Committee on Ministry, the Council or the Board of Trustees in conflict mediation.
- Expect divergent beliefs and opinions and persist in respectful dialogue—especially in times of uncertainty—remaining open to new understandings while doing my part to sustain this Covenant.
- Respect the minister and staff's professionalism, time and privacy.
- Assume responsibility for understanding the church structure and governance model.
- Assume responsibility for keeping informed of church business.

Through this Covenant of Good Relations, it is our intention to foster healthy and productive relations within our church community as we work together to achieve our mission.



Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

3327 Old Conejo Road
Newbury Park CA 91320([map](#))
805-498-9548
www.cvuuf.org

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***A Welcoming Community to all persons regardless of their race, nationality,
sexual orientation or gender identity.***

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Tom Wolf, Trustee At Large

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Additional UU resource links:

[Unitarian Universalist Association](#)

[\(UUA\)](#) The UUA serves 1,000+ congregations in the US and the world.

[Pacific Southwest District \(PSWD\)](#)

PSWD serves 50 Pacific Southwest congregations in California, Arizona and Nevada.

Sunday Service is held at 9:15 & 11:00 am, with Coffee Hour following each service. Children's Religious Education is held during the 9:15am service. Childcare is provided and YRUU (our high school RE program) meets during the 11:00am service.

Visitors are always welcome!