



CVUUF

April 2018

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

April 2018 Worship Service Descriptions:

Theme: Abundance

In This Issue

March Services	1
Minister's Message	2
President's Message	3
Religious Education	4
Upcoming Events	5-13
About Us	15

This newsletter is published monthly. View this copy on our website at www.cvuuf.org.

Deadline for articles or photos is the 25th day of each month at 6:00pm. Be sure to **email submissions to:** news@cvuuf.org

Content is placed, and may be edited by, Jill Lewis, Newsletter Editor

Weekly News & Notes

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

Visit us on

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CVUUF



Follow us on Twitter



April 1 – The Sun will Rise Again – Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

After a long hard night, when it seems like the light may never return and the trials of life appear too great, nature teaches us that the sun will rise again. We embrace this message of Easter and resurrection through our Unitarian Universalist lens by celebrating our Flower Communion that reminds us of the beauty of life and rebirth. Join us for this celebration of hope and abundance. Bring flowers to share from your garden or a store.

April 8 – Want What You Have – Moving From Scarcity to Abundance

– Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn

ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10 am

Congregational Brunch Celebration at 11 am

"It's not what we have that constitutes our abundance, but what we appreciate," writes Jules Petit-Senn. Sometimes our resources feel scarce and it is hard to imagine being able to give to life, because the struggle for survival is paramount. But when we shift our focus to celebrating what we already have, we can discover an abundant existence. Today, as we launch our Capital Campaign, we focus on the many gifts we already share as a community and individuals.

April 15 – Universal Journey – The Chalice Players

Olympia Brown, who became the first female Universalist minister in 1863, was a staunch advocate of women gaining the vote in 1920. CVUUF Chalice Players has chosen this dynamic historical figure to be the basis of an original presentation about women who have made a difference in "Universal Journey" during services. Join us for this special Sunday.

April 22 – Coming of Age – COA Youth, Mentors, Rev Nica & Sam Dickerson

For 7 months now our Coming of Age Youth (8th and 9th graders) have been undertaking a rigorous program of self-examination, faith exploration and growth. This service marks the culmination of that program and invites the youth and their mentors to share what they have learned and how their Unitarian Universalist faith informs them. Please join us in welcoming these inspiring youth to the next step of their faith journey.

April 29 – Isn't There Enough for Everyone? – David Buss and Thelma Williams

With so much abundance in this world, why do so many live with so little?

John the Baptist said: "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." What do other religions say about abundance? What can we do to alleviate the suffering of the weakest in our community? Join us for this exploration on how we might share the abundant resources of this planet.



Minister's Message

[Home](#)

Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn, Minister
minister@cvuuf.org

Theme—Abundance

"Be a stream, not a swamp. Remember, it is the mountain stream that carries fresh, life-giving water because it flows out. However, the swamp is stagnant. A swamp collects and retains water that comes its way. Don't be the kind of person who seeks to accumulate much before allowing a little to flow through."

As we focus on the theme of "Abundance" this month, I was struck by these thoughts of Victor M. Parachin. Victor was living in Canada when he came up with this metaphor. So, though our Southern California streams may be drier than we hope, please imagine with me such cascading fresh streams in the Canadian Rockies whose waters are constantly renewed. As each stream allows its clear waters to flow abundantly downstream to nourish plants and animals and eventually join the ocean, it is replenished by a generous source.

Many spiritual teachings impart that message about abundance. The more we let our energies, our resources, our gifts flow through us and nourish those around us, the more we too will be replenished. The more the source of our being can nourish us. That is how we create space for new influences and regeneration. These spiritual teachings suggest that grasping and holding on to our resources will cause us to stagnate. Allowing them to move through us will keep us present and engaged in life.

As we launch our Capital Campaign this month, I am grateful for the many flowing streams in our congregation. So many of you let your gifts and resources flow abundantly to and through this Fellowship and beyond. This is what makes our congregation a rich sanctuary and home for many. An abundant resource from which people of all ages, all races, all backgrounds, all beliefs and abilities can quench their thirst for connection and meaning. I'm regularly reminded by our visitors of what a unique and precious resource CVUUF is. They are often astounded when they discover our open-minded, inclusive and loving community. And as they join this beautiful Fellowship and become members, they get connected to those of you who have been here for decades, appreciating the many ways in which we touch lives. You have made lasting friendships here, you have found guidance during difficult times, and you continue to find inspiration and hope at a time when that is sorely needed. What we are co-creating through this Capital Campaign is a sense of solidity and continuity for the gift that is this precious Fellowship. It's an opportunity for us to ensure the survival of this priceless place for all of us and for generations to come.

As your minister, I am so deeply committed to the continued thriving of this community, that my family and I are extending ourselves to give as generously as we can from savings to sustain it. I hope you'll join me in giving as generously as you can to support our beautiful community, with its impressive past, its vibrant present and its truly exciting, promising future.

Please bring flowers to share for our Easter service on April 1st, when we celebrate our annual Flower Communion. And then join us for our one service at 10 am on April 8, followed by a bountiful Brunch party to kick off our Capital Campaign. On April 15, our beloved Chalice Players will present a historical play about Olympia Brown, Universalism's first female minister. On April 22, we will all get to marvel at our Coming of Age youth who will share their journey in life and faith with us. Finally David Buss and Thelma Williams will lead us in a service exploring why there still is poverty in this world, when there is so much abundance. That weekend, I will be attending the UUA Regional Assembly Gathering in Portland. It is a month rich with multi-sensory worship, stimulating ideas and inspiring messages. Please join us.

I look forward to our abundant future together.
In faith,
Reverend Nica

President's Message

Tom Wolf
president@cvuuf.org



[Home](#)

As I write this in late March, there really only seems one thing to talk about – the March for Our Lives events in Washington DC and around the world. I am sure some of you went to the Ventura march or the one in Los Angeles, and I applaud your social action. If you have a high school child or grandchild who went, I applaud their action even more. High school is a tough enough time just trying to get by, never mind harnessing your energy for something like political change.

I am incredibly impressed by the students of Parkland who organized these events. A few weeks from now the number count may have changed slightly, but as of today they are talking about 800 events worldwide, and 800,000 people at the march in Washington alone. Incredible!

Many of us are old enough to have participated in civil rights marches, anti-war marches, women's marches, marriage equality or environmental events. There are certainly more causes I could have mentioned, and whatever your passion is, keep at it.

But the movement to stop gun violence, at least as a truly coast to coast and broad-based effort, essentially started March 24, 2018 by kids too young to vote. There are kids in cities and towns all over the country who are mobilizing to change the minds of legislators, or to engineer their defeat if necessary. They are taking on the NRA, the Republican Party, and the millions of voters who have not as yet placed sensible gun laws as a top priority.

In the giant Washington DC March we heard several voices whom we have come to know in the last couple of months. The two that come to mind immediately are Emma Gonzalez and Cameron Kasky. Emma's 6 minute and 20 second speech in Washington, including the names of victims and a four-minute-long silence, was easily the most impressive speech given by anyone in years. Amazing. She already has, since the February 14th Parkland shooting, almost twice as many followers on Twitter than the NRA has.

Cameron Kasky's line, "Welcome to the revolution" will become another defining moment in this movement. These young people know how to speak, how to organize, and how to use the media. They are among the best and the brightest of their generation, they are the best example of the Resistance to Trump. Make no mistake about it – they will win. And the United States will be a better and safer place to live.

Finally, I need to mention Naomi Wadler, an eleven-year-old African American girl who also spoke with incredible passion at the DC event. Any movement that understands from the outset how to be inclusive, and who can find such an outstanding individual not even out of middle school yet, is quite simply an impressive component of the arc of justice.

I can't wait to be able to vote for one of these young people to lead us. Until then - Just tell me who to vote for.



Religious Education News

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

[Home](#)

"What we need is here." – Rev. Amy McCreath

Rev. McCreath's chant was sparked by the lovely poem by Wendell Berry, *Wild Geese*. If you are unfamiliar with this piece, I highly recommend looking it up and sharing it with your family. Its message is, I feel, simple and clear. We are surrounded by beauty. We are given everything we need to nurture our bodies and spirits. We are amid a community that offers unquestioning support. There is no need to ask for more when we have everything necessary to sustain a content life. *What we need is here.*

We live an abundant life. In today's society of "more," this can be difficult to see. When we are bombarded by images of the 1% scrambling to get "more" while those who truly have nothing are fighting for the barest of scraps, the concept of abundance can seem, well, absurd. To some it may even have negative connotations. It could even seem unattainable. Abundance may be best served as a utopia only spoken of in literature. When you are struggling, abundance could be a slap-in-the-face reminder of what you are lacking.

Breathe, my friends. I ask you to consider a different scope when thinking of what abundance could be. Driving down the Conejo Grade after the recent rains, I was taken aback by the green that coats our hills. This green will soon lead to blankets of wild flowers. Even after the tragic disasters that marred our communities, life finds a way to spring up. As the days warm and we enjoy these bursts of color, our energy seems to be renewed. Spring cleaning of, not just our homes, but spirits seems to be in order. A hike up a favorite path. A breezy day down at the beach. A lazy drive on a windy highway. Something in us awakens. Our moods lift, and all we want is to share our joy. We join with others who feel this joy. If someone isn't quite there yet, we seek a way to bring them up, because my goodness it feels good and everyone should revel in it. It is exactly what we need, and it is here.

Abundance is a perfect theme for April. On the first we celebrate Easter Sunday and come together for our Flower Communion. Easter brings an abundance of faith and possibilities, while the Flower Communion reminds us of the abundance of beauty and diversity. Please don't forget your flowers! This is an honored tradition of Unitarian Universalists that even our children adore.

As I'm sure you're all very aware of, April 8th is the grand kickoff of our Capital Campaign. Though dollar signs are the first images that pop into most minds, I offer you other images of abundance that are also tied into this Campaign... community, security, unity. These will eventually lead to an abundance of outreach, programs, and spiritual nurturing. Oh, and UUs! An abundance of UUs is an excellent bonus! Who wouldn't want to be a part of this Fellowship when we have so much to share?

Later in the month, on April 22nd, we will celebrate our Coming of Age Youth! This has been an incredible experience. We are graced with a spectacular group of youth that you will not want to miss. (FYI, there will be two services. Two chances to hear about these young people and their amazing journey!) This group is a reminder of our abundant future. They are honest and thoughtful in all they do and are brilliant in all they share. This remarkable group deserves to be shown an abundance of love and respect from their congregation!

We are truly abundant in so many ways. The anxiety that can be caused by some of our struggles is valid. However, when we focus on what we do have, overcoming those struggles doesn't seem quite so daunting.

What we need is here.

Abundancia

Join us for our Capital Campaign Kick-off Celebration Brunch
Sunday, April 8th - 11:00 a.m.

There will be one service at 10:00am with festivities to follow.
Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Everyone belongs!
Everyone is included!
And everyone is needed!
Help celebrate our vision of a future of abundance and sustainability!

There will be food, drink, dancing and fun!
A video booth will be ready to record your personal hopes
for what we will do with a debt-free future.
Please RSVP and sign up for the potluck.
(Signupgenius link)

And the Capital Campaign Begins!!

After more than six months of hard work to prepare for this moment, we will officially kick off our Capital Campaign on April 8. Many of you have already committed your time and energy to this momentous effort, and soon we will all have the opportunity to get involved and play a part in addressing our Fellowship's financial challenges.

Together, we are going to address the single biggest threat to this congregation's long term health. We are going to pull ourselves out of the debt that has been weighing on our congregation with a capital campaign where everyone is involved, everyone is valued, and we bring our forces to bear so that together we are stronger, we can do more, and we can rise to a new level of financial freedom.

Finances drive our ability to inspire and address our community's spiritual needs. Your support of the capital campaign means more resources for the programs that nurture your soul and enrich our community. Your gifts provide a chance for us to live out our mission and be a beacon for those who need us in the Conejo Valley.



Sunday, April 8

Join us for a celebration of Abundance!!



Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The mission of the Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is to nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion.

Tuesday, APRIL 10, 2018 – 7:00 pm

Movie Discussion Night With Rev. Nica

BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION



THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION is the first feature length documentary to explore the Black Panther Party, its significance to the broader American culture, its cultural and political awakening for black people, and the painful lessons wrought when a movement derails.

Master documentarian Stanley Nelson goes straight to the source, weaving a treasure trove of rare archival footage with the voices of the people who were there: police, FBI informants, journalists, white supporters and detractors, and Black Panthers who remained loyal to the party and those who left it. Featuring Kathleen Cleaver, Jamal Joseph, and many others, THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION is an essential history and a vibrant chronicle of this pivotal movement that birthed a new revolutionary culture in America.

One of the people interviewed in the film is Michael D. McCarty who is our featured guest at our next community Forum.

**Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3327 Old Conejo Road, Newbury Park**

Chalice Players to Present "Universal Journey"

April 15, 2018 for two services at 9:15 and 11:00



The Chalice Players will present an original story based on facts about *Olympia Brown*, the first female Universalist minister.

With the hundredth anniversary of women getting the vote in 2020, the stories about women who made a difference in America are being retold. One such woman was Olympia Brown, a Michigan school teacher who became the first female Universalist minister in 1863. After fighting to be ordained, she served in three pulpits from Vermont to Wisconsin.

Her tenacity extended into the Women's Suffrage movement for seventy years. After President Wilson went to France to discuss the end of WW I in 1918, she dared to burn his speeches and books in a fire in Lafayette Park across from the White House.

"I protest the President's leaving our country with this old fight here un-won." Brown believed that it was hypocritical to be called a survivor of world democracy when one did not exist in her own country until women gained the vote.

General Assembly (GA)

The Biggest Event in Our Faith Movement
June 20-24 in Kansas City, MO

General Assembly (GA) registration and housing reservations are now open online! Join us for the 2018 General Assembly to be held June 20-24 in Kansas City, MO. GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through a democratic process. Please let Rev. Nica know if you will be attending.

Financial aid is available if you apply by March 31.
Learn more at www.uua.org/ga





How does abundance measure in your life?

On the **Art Wall** in Fellowship Hall, there are some key abundance questions to ask yourself. If you like sharing the answer, graffiti them on paper columns on our chart of abundance.

Materials will be at the art table in Fellowship Hall. Small group kits are also available.

If you'd like to join the Art Wall Gang and help plan future ideas, please contact Gwyn at the email below.

Share in the fun! Join the creativity! Color your world!

Contact person: Gwyn Vanoni at Artwall@cvuuf.org

The Art Wall is
for all ages to
share in the
beauty of our
Fellowship—Come
join us!



On Friday, April 20, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Come Listen to Storyteller Extraordinaire

MICHAEL D. McCARTY



STORYTELLING GOES TO PRISON:

THE ART OF STORYTELLING CHANGING LIVES

"In 2014, the Arts in Corrections program that ran successfully in the 90's was revived, and I was asked to participate.

I couldn't wait to go to prison.

It's been an amazing experience and I'll tell you all about it!"

PROGRAM IS FREE BUT DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.

Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3327 Old Conejo Road, Newbury Park
For more information eMail: forum@cvuuf.org

Hikers and Walkers

Put on your comfy shoes and join the **CVUUF 2nd Service Hike Group**. Chuck Fernald, Gordon Clint, Mary Freed and Pete Hauger will take turns leading easy walks on local trails. Kids and youth are especially welcome.

Carpool from CVUUF at 10:45am or meet us at the trailhead. Walks will start at 11:00am and usually end by 12:30pm. Bring water, a snack, or sack lunch. Some may want to end at a local restaurant.



Sunday April 15: Carpool from CVUUF at 10:45am or meet at Green Meadow Trailhead (south on Moorpark Road, turn right on Green Meadow and park at end).

Sunday April 29: Carpool from CVUUF at 10:45am or meet at Conejo Botanic Garden (parking lot at 400 W. Gainborough). Stay for the Matilija Poppy festival – speakers, art, music, fun.

Tequio Scholarship Fundraiser in Oxnard—April 7, 2018

The Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) will be holding a fundraiser at the Mexican Consulate in Oxnard on April 7 at 3pm. Tickets are \$40 to raise money for scholarships while enjoying live music, delicious Oaxacan bites and hearing from students of indigenous Mexican roots who are pursuing higher education. For more information, please see the Racial Justice bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact Maria Ornelas or Barbara Leighton for carpooling. Thank you.

Meaning Makers for 18 - 35 Year Olds

Meaning Makers is a spiritual development program for young Unitarian Universalists (UUs) ages 18-35. Through in-person retreats, virtual small group ministry and mentorship, emerging adults explore different aspects of our faith and gain lasting connections.

The program begins with a retreat at UBarU Camp and Retreat Center in Texas where participants bond with their small group and focus on personal and UU identities. Participants then meet with their small group of peers once a month via video conference as they explore one of the three focus areas for the 2018-19 program. These monthly meetings are supplemented by one-on-one meetings with a UU mentor. The next retreat will take place June 5-9, 2018 at UBarU where this year's cohort will close out the program and next year's group will be getting started. Though previous programs have lasted a full year, the 2018-19 program will close out in January, creating a shorter but hopefully sweeter and more fulfilling program. Interested?

Sign up now! <https://www.uua.org/young-adults/events/meaning-makers>
Registration is open and will continue on a rolling basis until the program fills up.

Next retreat will take place June 5-9 at UBarU, Texas

CVUUF Racial and Cultural Justice Ministry Team

The Racial and Cultural Justice Ministry Team's Statement of Mission:

Grounded in the core values of our faith, the Racial and Cultural Justice Ministry Team seeks to increase multicultural competence within ourselves and the congregation and works to overcome racism in all its forms in our community and nation.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6th, from 12:15 to 2:15pm. Please plan to attend if you want to add your talents to this group and stay in the loop about the racial and cultural justice activities in our area!

"If you have come here to help me, you are wasting our time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."
- Lilla Watson, Aboriginal elder, educator, and activist

If you would like to join the mailing list, please contact Gracie 59gracie@gmail.com
Support the movement to free our country from racism, poverty, a war economy and ecological devastation: www.poorpeoplescampaign.org

Participate in the May 14 UU Justice Ministry of California annual Sacramento Lobby Day:
www.uujmca.org



2018 Pacific Western Regional Assembly Portland Oregon April 27-29

Plan to join attendees from 185 PWR congregations as the four districts of the Pacific Western Region convene in Portland, Oregon, April 27-29, for the 2018 Regional Assembly. Three dynamic speakers will address the theme, *Stories of Hope, Courage, Resistance, and Resilience*. The Rev. Dr. William Barber, a national figure in civil rights activism, will be in the pulpit for Sunday's worship service. Saturday's keynote speaker will be Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, the first Indian-American woman to be elected to U.S. Congress. Jayapal has spent the last twenty years working internationally and domestically as a leading advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights. The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA president, will speak at Friday evening's opening ceremony. Frederick-Gray will share her emerging vision for the future of the UUA and the wider movement.

Several workshops will be offered during Saturday's programming. If you prefer, you may opt to participate in a local social justice activity. Full details about workshops and the social justice activity will soon be posted on the Pacific Western Region website (www.uua.org/pwr).

All four districts of the Pacific Western Region will hold concurrent annual meetings on Saturday afternoon. Meeting materials and delegate information will be distributed in February/March.

Regional Assembly registration will be open by January 4. You will be able to access full details and the registration form through the Pacific Western Region website (www.uua.org/pwr).

The Portland DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, site of the Regional Assembly, is offering discounted room rates through March 29. You can reserve your room [here](#). If you book through another link or by phone, be sure to use the group code, UU8. Full details will be posted on the PWR website before registration opens January 4.

PWR staff is working hard to keep registration costs low. An Early Bird adult registration fee will be available through January 31 and fees for young adults, youth, and children will be discounted. Still, could your congregation consider either subsidizing or fully funding the costs for at least one person to attend Regional Assembly? What a great opportunity for someone identified as a potential leader in your congregation!

Be sure to check the PWR website (www.uua.org/pwr) after the first of the year for full Regional Assembly details.

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 Shared 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

[Home](#)

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

Staff

Reverend Nica Eaton-Guinn minister@cvuuf.org
Samantha Dickerson, Director of Religious Education, dre@cvuuf.org
Joel Rieke, Music Director, musicdirector@cvuuf.org
Dianna Mueller, Administrator, admin@cvuuf.org
Tonya Jaglowski, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@cvuuf.org
Reverend Dr. Betty Stapleford - Minister Emerita

Board of Trustees 2016-2017

Tom Wolf, Board President, president@cvuuf.org
David Barker, Vice President
Kathleen Holland, Secretary
Peter Schlaus, Treasurer
At-Large Trustees: Dalila Sankaran, Kelly Castillo, Tim Snowber

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 Pacific
Southwest congregations
including the States of
California, Arizona and
Nevada.

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

Visitors are always welcome.