



# The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | August 2021 Newsletter



## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Due to COVID19 shelter in place orders, the church office is closed until further notice.

Kelli is working from home and can still be reached via

[office@starrking.org](mailto:office@starrking.org)

For pastoral care, please reach out to Rev. Maria Cristina via email or phone (617)895-9267.

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[starrking.org](http://starrking.org)

[facebook.com/StarrKingChurch](https://facebook.com/StarrKingChurch)

### Parish Minister

The Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina  
Vlassidis Burgoa

[minister@starrking.org](mailto:minister@starrking.org)

### Office Administrator

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### Board President

Roy Dickerson

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### Newsletter

Kelly and Nathan Heigert

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

## AUGUST THEME: IMAGINATION

### AUGUST 1

#### Sing Along II

Our theme will be Music and Imagination. There will be familiar songs for all to sing along. We will also be doing an interactive imaginative listening activity together. Hope everyone will join us for an eclectic service with their imaginations and creativity. *Service led by Linli Wang*

### AUGUST 8

#### Dr. Melissa James

Profile on Page 3

*Service led by Guest Preacher Dr. Melissa James*

### AUGUST 15

#### jo mosher

Profile on Page 3

*Service led by Guest Speaker jo mosher*

### AUGUST 22

#### Rev. Pratima Dharm

Profile on Page 4

*Service led by Guest Preacher Rev. Pratima Dharm*

### AUGUST 29

#### Gather The Spirit

During this pandemic, we have been gathering virtually for Sunday Worship since March 22nd, 2020. During this uniquely liminal time, we have experienced both challenges and opportunities. We have shown our resiliency by supporting each other through loss, fear, and uncertainty. We have held each other in prayer and loving kindness. We have collaborated and shared our creative ideas to keep connected and nourish our Beloved Community. On Sunday, August 29th we will gather in person to give thanks for the blessing of community and rededicate ourselves to continue being part of a transformative Unitarian Universalist movement that is a beacon of light, a wellspring of hope, and a deep source of love.

*Service led by Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa*

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# July Highlights



**'Let us gather in peace, gather in thanks, hope, compassion, and strength. Let us gather to celebrate once again. Nurtured in love, with body and spirit united once more.' [SLT #347]**

# Guest Speakers

**AUGUST 8**

**Dr. Melissa James**

Dr. Melissa James, Congregational Life Field Staff in the Pacific Western Region, brings nearly 20 years of experience in faith-based ministry to the UUA. She earned her Masters of Arts from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC) with a focus on faith and justice. Melissa holds a Ph.D. in Ethics and Social Theory from the Graduate theological Union in Berkeley, CA. While working on her doctorate, she served at First Unitarian Universalist in Oakland, CA and got her first taste of the power and possibilities of religious education in a Unitarian Universalist context.



She went on to serve at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego as the Director of Family and Lifespan Ministry. In 2016, she was named as a Fahs Fellow through the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Seminary focusing on helping congregations support Trans and non-binary children, youth, and their families. Having worked in campus ministry as well as continuing to teach at local universities in sociology, religion, philosophy, and gender studies, Melissa lifts up the work of young adults.

Melissa is an ordained Deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). When asked what she foresees bringing into her work as UUA Congregational Life staff from Lutheran tradition, she reflected on its deep history and theology of reformation. “We are constantly reforming as individuals and institutions as we are called deeper into loving our neighbor,” Melissa said. “We do justice not because without us it would not happen, but because we are free, in love, to do so.”

**AUGUST 15**

**jo mosher**

jo mosher ( they / them / theirs) is the Director of Faith Formation at First Unitarian Church of San Jose and holds a Master of Arts in Social Change (M.A.S.C., 2018) from Starr King School for the Ministry.

jo is passionate about the future of Universalist syncretism, as well as Interfaith bridge building in





# Guest Speakers

today's world. jo's Calling is the changing of hearts and minds to be more tolerant – through altruistic compassion for all the oppressed, through patient communication amid conflict, and through genuine connection-fostering across diverse identities. jo is a nonbinary, genderfluid, transmasculine, pansexual Person of Color who was adopted into a white fundamentalist Christian family, and who had their life turned upside down when they came out as a young adult and were disowned.

**AUGUST 22**

**Rev. Pratima Dharm**

Rev. Pratima Dharm was born and raised in Northern India in the 1970s. Her maternal grandfather is a recognized freedom fighter who walked alongside Mahatma Gandhi to struggle peacefully against British rule in Colonial India. Her father gave up his rights to his ancestral land to free hundreds of bonded laborers and indentured servants in the 1940s. The formative examples of justice for the oppressed set by her maternal grandfather and her father became the framework for her own spiritual journey.

She started a school for poor children at age nine, under the guidance of her school teacher, a Catholic nun. She also organized several humanitarian aid missions for the displaced tribals and Latur earthquake victims in India in the 1990s. She migrated to the United States in 2000 and felt called into ministry in 2003. She graduated from Ashland Theological Seminary in 2005 with a Master's in Theology and was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist Minister in 2016. She retired from the US Army in March 2015.



# Regathering in Person

## Regathering Update– 29 August 2021

We are indeed living in uncertain times that require our patience and stretches our ability to deal with ambiguity and uncertainty. Let's remember, we are a people of faith! While we had already framed the values of care for all as our mantra, it was helpful to find this from the

UUA suggesting a Covenantal Consent

- The continued practice of inclusion, covenant, consent, and care for each other before making decisions.
- The UUA encourages congregations to maintain a culture of masking while indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- <https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/covenantal-consent>

The Delta Variant is a cause for concern. Let's remember that for those who are able to be vaccinated that ALL vaccines REDUCE:

- The severity of illness
- Hospitalization
- Deaths

Recently, health experts have said that anywhere from 87% to 95% of those who have contracted the Delta variant were not vaccinated.

Regathering Team continues to keep abreast of all changes in recommendations from the CDC and local Alameda County Public Health authorities. We will be using the 3-foot distance requirement suggested for schools. Once the carpets have been cleaned in mid-August, we will arrange the chairs with that in mind. If needed, we will set up additional chairs along with the TV monitor, for additional seating.

We will be following all other guidelines as published in The Chalice and in our Weekly Announcements

The return to our beloved sanctuary may not be perfect – so let's keep our hearts and minds open to everyone recognizing that we're all doing the best that we can.

Your Regathering Team,

*Corina Vasaure, Mary Swain, Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina and Mileva Saulo Lewis*



# Regathering in Person

## Clean-up Day

SATURDAY, 7 AUGUST 2021

10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Come with your energy, mask, gloves, water and your own snacks to prepare our building for our return. Any amount of time that you can give will be appreciated. We will be:

- Moving sanctuary chairs to the Fellowship Hall to prepare for carpet cleaning
- Decluttering – you may even find something that you'd like to take away!
- Take linens home for washing

If you have questions, contact Diane Meyerson at [ddmeyerson@gmail.com](mailto:ddmeyerson@gmail.com) or [milevalewis@comcast.net](mailto:milevalewis@comcast.net).





# Regathering in Person

## Why are people still wearing masks?



Wants to be an example to their child



Feels better with a mask



Has Asthma



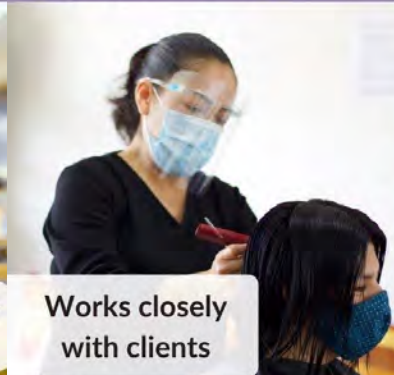
Doesn't want to get the flu



Wants to protect their family



Wants to stay healthy for vacation



Works closely with clients



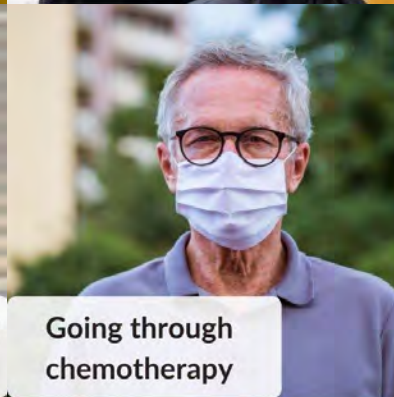
Waiting to finish getting vaccinated



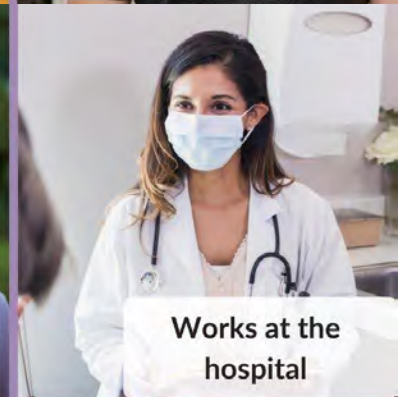
Works with the public



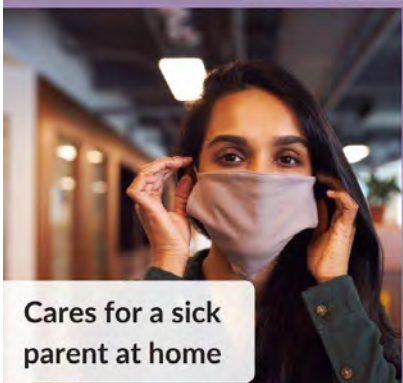
Doesn't want to get a cold



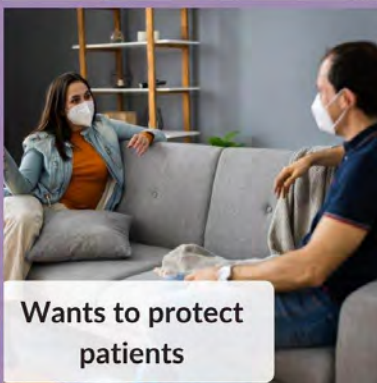
Going through chemotherapy



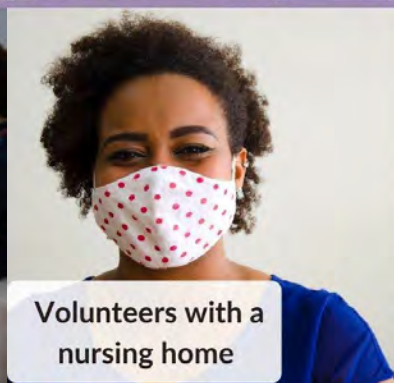
Works at the hospital



Cares for a sick parent at home



Wants to protect patients



Volunteers with a nursing home



Cares for young children



# SoUllful Family Ministry

## July Highlights

### Happy Heart Circle Time:

We had lots of fun exploring the different ways we can play. Playing gives our hearts joy especially when we share play with a friend. Speaking of friends, Barky came to visit. He had a problem about watering his flowers. Sharing the water was the answer! Listening to music and dancing is special kind of play. We really enjoyed the sing along concert with Raffi.

### Super Star Scientist Summer Camp:

Playing with magnets was like magic. We made a paper clip float! Our warm baked by the sun, English muffin was delicious. We had fun getting goopy and building our very own volcano in our yards. Using our imagination, we sailed off on our sponge boats, powered by a balloon.

### Special Gratitude:

Lavon and Lea who have continuously delivered our projects bags all month. Thank you!

- Roy Dickerson: Thank you Roy for being my go to science guy. I salute you.
- Mama Lily and Rev. Maria Cristina: Thank you for the beautiful coloring books.

—Lorene Miller





# Ongoing Activities

All in-person activities done virtually or on hold until further notice.  
Please check the website at [starrking.org](http://starrking.org) for updates.

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<b>Evening Meditation</b>	Every Wednesday, 7:00–8:30pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Diane Meyerson
<b>Small Group Ministry</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:sgm@starrking.org">sgm@starrking.org</a> for more information.
<b>Board Meeting</b>	First Thursday of the month, 7–9pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Roy Dickerson
<b>Peace and Justice Action Team</b>	Usually the second Sunday of the month after worship but not always, so check the church calendar and the announcements email to confirm.
<b>Family Storytime</b>	<b>(On hold)</b> Every Monday 6:30pm on Zoom. Contact: Dr. Rev. María Cristina
<b>Adult RE</b>	<b>(On hold)</b> Second Tuesday of the Month from 11–12 noon on Zoom Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis
<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>(On hold)</b> Meets every Sunday from 9–10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Contact: Lea Casini

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## August Birthdays

**August 4**  
Sylvia Blake

**August 13**  
Al Murdach  
John Gruver

**August 16**  
Tasha Casini

**August 19**  
Frank Burton

**August 20**  
Marge Schwab

**August 21**  
Regina Fassano

**August 25**  
Gerald Mosher

**August 27**  
Jennifer Koney