



# Mt Diablo UU Beacon

*Transforming Ourselves and Our World*

Volume 73, No. 6

June 2026

**SUNDAY SERVICE TIME — 10:30 A.M.**  
**SUNDAY MEDITATION — 9:00 A.M. ON ZOOM**

**ALL SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED!**

- <https://mduuc.org/service-stream/>
- <https://youtube.com/> — @MDUUC

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR PODCAST!**

Search for “MDUUC Beacon Light” on Spotify

**JOIN US ON BLUE SKY — @mduuc.bsby.social**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



**Singing in the Spirit!** While we will not have a formal worship service on this day to allow for participation at our Annual Congregational Meeting, we will have a chance to sing together as we gather and while our votes are being counted. Come and join in this spirited activity. (Members, please arrive early to register.)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14**

**Blossoming!** Our annual flower communion service is one of our favorite Unitarian Universalist rituals—bring some flowers to share and leave with a blossom from another in this embodiment of our interdependence. This will also be the opportunity for us to honor our high school students who are bridging to their adult lives. Please join us for this very special service where we celebrate what is blossoming both in terms of our youth and also in terms of our spiritual journey.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21**

**Worship with the UUA’s General Assembly.** This will be the streamed GA service with a live music gathering—come and sing at 10 a.m. The UUA writes: “Sunday morning worship is the heart of General Assembly, drawing our entire community together in shared spirit. Through music, preaching, and ritual, we will ground ourselves in our Unitarian Universalist faith and be renewed for the work of justice, compassion, and community. *Please note—we will be starting this day with Community Singing from 10-10:30 a.m. which will also be on our worship stream. Come gather with UUs from around our region.*”

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28**

**Queering Religion.** There is something inherently Queer about healthy religion—it disrupts, upends, and reinterprets the ways in which we see and engage with the world. Join Aiden McMahon as we reflect on the lessons offered by Pride in this, his final service as MDUUC’s Intern.

## FLOWER COMMUNION

and Bridging Ceremony

**BRING A FLOWER,  
TAKE A FLOWER!**

**EXTRA FLOWERS WELCOMED!**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14  
10:30 A.M.**

*We will be honoring our youth who are graduating high school with a celebration after service.*



## wednesday nights ARE WONDERFUL AT MDUUC!

**Vespers & Community Dinner | June 10**

**VESPERS, 5PM, Sanctuary and Zoom.** Join Intern Minister Aiden McMahon, Jo Gelinias and others for this brief mid-week gathering focused on recentering and calming with a theme in mind. This is also a good place to hold your grief at what is happening in the world. In June we will only meet on June 10 at 5 p.m. and the theme is, “What Does Love Mean to Me?”

**COMMUNITY DINNER, 6PM, Bortin Hall.** All are welcome to join this simple meal with conversation. Please register online to help us honor a headcount for preparation.

<https://mduuc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/category/82674>

\$10 suggested donation to help cover costs, but please give what you are able to, and it’s completely optional—it should never be a barrier to attending.

**MINISTERS’ CONVERSATIONS \*Will return in the fall**

Join us for a free-ranging conversation about what it means to honor our values in ways that are steady and changeable, time-honored and wholly new. We will use discussion, ritual, story, and shared experiences to remind ourselves of key skills for these times.

## Leslie's Logos "Trusting Our Own Hearts"



June is a time of transitions. Some of us are graduating. Some are using the summer for new resolutions and resolves. Some are beginning camp for the first time. Some are retiring. And at MDUUC, as June closes, we end another year of community and programming. Though our activities continue through the summer, the beginning of June and the mark of a new season reminds us of the passage of time.

In this particular and challenging time of 2026, this marker reminds us of the fact that we are still living under conditions that we wish were not true. Fraud is up. Services we depend on such as Federal support for the most vulnerable among us are not delivering. Just as under the administration a decade ago, the US post office is being unreliable. As I have learned from the privilege of working with our grief group over time, with any grief, the passing of a new marker can cause a surge in grief—and with that a surge in all the many faces of anger including anger and denial, sorrow and feelings of hopelessness.

So this is a good time to remember that we can trust our own hearts. That what we know to be true in our heart is a protective form of truth even when those truths are contradicted by this world of false news, increased fraud and more division. We can continue to trust the deep truths within our hearts and to rely on them and deepen into them as we need to. For example, if we believe that we as individuals can make a difference, then we can continue to show up—even if doing so does not bring the large-scale change we might want. If we believe that people being together and in direct engagement allows for the creativity of interchange, then we can look for ways to make this happen.

This does not mean that we are not open to new information or the wisdom of other people's truths for we know that this interchange is what keeps us growing and alive. And yet, as we slip into summer and something in our spirit feels especially tired, let's take a moment and affirm our own knowing, our own truths and our own inspirations.

Especially in 2026, may June bring reconnection with the activities, people and passions which bring you strength and renewal, joy and hope.

In faith and perseverance,

Leslie

Rev. Leslie serves as the community's Lead Minister. Please note Leslie's email is not working correctly. If you write and don't get an answer, feel free to call at 925-934-3135 extension 12.

You can follow her on BlueSky ([leslietakahashi@bsky.social](mailto:leslietakahashi@bsky.social)) and on [Substack](https://www.substack.com). To make an appointment with Rev. Leslie, visit <https://calendly.com/revlesliemeet>.

## Marena McGregor, DRE



June arrives with something bittersweet in the air: our bridging ceremony!

On Sunday, June 14, we will honor three graduating seniors as they embark on their next chapter.

Ananda Jallepalli has grown up at MDUUC, and anyone who has spent time with her knows she is not afraid of asking the hard questions. She leads with confident curiosity and a moral compass that is steady and sure. She is an advocate for herself, for others, for what is right, and we have watched that quality deepen year after year.

Forest Sinclair has also grown up at MDUUC and is the kind of leader who sees the whole picture without losing sight of the people in it. Patient, grounded, and quietly powerful, Forest gets things done, not by pushing, but by holding steady. Our community is better for having had Forest's calming energy in the room.

Max Picksley joined us within the last couple of years, but arrived with a contagious optimism and team spirit that lifts everyone around him. Max dove into childcare, youth group, and MDUUC community life without hesitation, and became a role model almost immediately.

All three of these youth have been gifts to our younger children, to their peers, and to every adult who has had the privilege of watching them grow.

I am so excited to see what this next chapter holds for each of them, and we want them to know: MDUUC will always be home they can return to.

Sincerely—Marena

Marena serves as the Director of Religious Education and is best reached at [marena@mduuc.org](mailto:marena@mduuc.org)

## Chalice Music Summer Camp @ MDUUC June 8 through June 12 —with performance on June 12!

Join us for a week of singing, movement, and fun! Spread the word and get ready for music, connection, and community.

We look forward to having you and your family!

- Morning session, 9am-12pm: For ages 3-6  
Suggested donation: \$150 per child
- Afternoon session, 1pm-4pm: For rising 2nd-8th graders  
Suggested Donation: \$150 per child
- Camp Counselor Positions - This track is intended for rising 9th through 12th graders. This is an amazing leadership opportunity for teens!

Please email [Marena@mduuc.org](mailto:Marena@mduuc.org) with any questions.

Donations can be made while registering for the program, or separately online at: <https://mduuc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/2026-chalice-summer-camp>

Checks are also welcomed.

**RACHEL MADDOW PRESENTS**  
**BURN ORDER**

MS NOW

**Burn Order Podcast Discussion**  
June 3 & 10 from 7–8PM | [Register Here](#)

Rachel Maddow’s ‘Burn Order’ podcast is an amazing exploration of history and law, heroism and villainy. It is also very relevant to what is happening in our nation today. Join Rev. Leslie Takahashi for two sessions in which we will look at what the incarceration of Japanese-Americans in the 1940s can teach us about what we need to be doing today. A podcast discussion? How does that work? Well, you are invited to listen on your own to the six episodes and then join in a discussion which will be held twice. ‘Burn Order’ is available on Apple podcasts, Soundcloud and many other podcast apps. We will listen to part of the live event at each of the two gatherings and have an opportunity for conversation. We will meet on-line only for this. Join Rev. Leslie Takahashi June 3 and 10 at 7-8 p.m.

**WE ARE MOSAIC**  
PLEASE SCAN TO REGISTER

<b>2nd Saturdays</b> 9:30–11:30AM (Bortin & Online)	<b>4th Virtual Thursdays</b> 7:00–9:00PM (Online Only)
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**Saturday, June 13 & Thursday, June 25**

Join us for a deep exploration of antiracist and anti-oppression thought and action using a course created and provided to us by the UUA. Through connection, reflection, and collective learning, we’ll discover practical tools to dismantle oppressive systems within ourselves and our communities. This isn’t just theory. It’s about honoring our multifaceted identities while building the liberation we all deserve.

This gathering is especially important and beneficial for those interested in leading our congregation into the future!

The link to register and to join on zoom is available on the calendar.

Saturday, June 13 will meet in Bortin Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and online only on Thursday, June 25 from 7–9 p.m.

# RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

## Restorative Practices

In these challenging times, finding peace and mindfulness is more important than ever as is remembering the inner resources we have which we can develop to anchor ourselves.

- 2nd and 4th Friday Virtual AM Meditation, 8:30 a.m. Start your day with calm and clarity. Join Rev. Leslie online for a short, 30-minute session to ease into your day.
- Saturday Mindfulness Meditation, hybrid, at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Virtual Meditation, 9:00 a.m. Email [yoga@mduuc.org](mailto:yoga@mduuc.org) to be added on to the mailing list.
- Virtual Meditations - Visit [HERE](#) for recordings.

These sessions allow you to connect with yourself and our community, whether you’re new to meditation or have been practicing for years.

## Mindfulness Reboost on Saturday Mornings

Did you know that our mindfulness group is still going strong? And that you can join in person in the Fireside Room or on campus, weekly on Saturdays at 9 a.m.? This is a great chance to connect with a dedicated group who make a priority of being mindful. Join us weekly online or in person, the link to join online can be found on our calendar. Join the group to receive reminders.

**Ice Cream Social Fundraiser**  
*Sunday, June 7 (following the Annual Meeting)*  
*We are grateful for all donations, big or small!*

**June 7**  
12:30PM

**Scoops of Fun Await!**

**ICE CREAM Social**  
**MDUUC FUNDRAISER**



## A Message From Your Board of Trustees

### Greetings, MDUUC members and friends!

As we bring this church year to an end, we wish to thank all of you who have participated throughout the year – in our services, our classes, our religious education program, our justice activities, our fundraisers, and our memorials.

MDUUC enjoys something unique. With Love at the center, we are a growing community -people coming in from areas close and far, some alone, some with children, some who have been UUs in other parts of the county, and those who are new to Unitarian Universalism. All come seeking community in some form – a place to know they are seen, a place to be heard, a place to say the quiet part out loud. At a time when churches are struggling to keep the doors open, the opportunity to deliver messages, relevant to what people are needing in these very difficult times, is not taken for granted.

As we approach our celebration of new members on June 14, we welcome into community those who have journeyed here, appreciate all who make this the strong faith community it continues to be, and we remain mindful of those to come.

### JOIN US: Upcoming Congregational Meeting June 7

#### Votes:

- Slate of candidates for: Board of Trustees, Legacy and Nominating Committees
- 2026-2027 MDUUC Budget
- Consideration to further explore changing the MDUUC Name

We will not have our regular church service that day. Please “arrive” early so we can get you checked in, whether online or in person.

Finally, please join me in expressing appreciation to the Board members whose service is ending: Andrew Oswald, Jim Lincoln, Kevin Hsieh and Elizabeth Dietsch

Please also express appreciation to the new Board members who will be joining us after the congregational vote, including returning Board Treasurer, Chris Carter, as well as those making the commitment to serving on the Nominating Committee and the Legacy Committee.

We all, along with you, the members and friends of MDUUC, are the community so needed in these times.

“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” – African Proverb

In Faith and Gratitude,

Linda Russell, President  
2025-2026 MDUUC Board of Trustees

## We're Opening a MDUUC Merch Shop!

# MDUUC MERCH COMING SOON!



The MDUUC Church Merch Store is opening soon! Show your pride, support our community, and be part of something meaningful. Every purchase helps fuel our mission—join us in this joyful fundraiser and wear your spirit with love!

## Community Circles

Our Community Circles have been and continue to be a beloved piece of our small group ministry, designed to explore topics in community and build relationships. If you are a new member, or perhaps a longstanding member, looking for ways to develop a meaningful connection to our faith tradition and other members of the church, Community Circles are for you. For more information, or to join a circle, please visit <https://mduuc.org/connect/community-circle>

## History Committee

Our history committee has been on a hiatus since the pandemic. Are you interested in learning more about the particular history of this congregation? Or some of our longest serving members? Do you like organizing materials? Please let Rev. Leslie know! (You can email her and if you don't hear back then just reach out another way!).

## Help With the Mary Fenelon Shower!

Mary Fenelon was instrumental in making our shower program happen. As Rev. Rodney shared, the shower not only makes ours a better site for the Winter Nights program, it also lets us offer showers to people throughout the week.

If you are interested in helping out, contact Rev. Rodney or intern minister Aiden McMahon for information. We could especially use a few more folks to wash towels and contribute shampoo, conditioner and liquid soap.



# UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. While anyone can attend, congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.

Democracy is at the heart of how we make decisions as UUs and the heart of that is our annual gathering. This year we will be a host site for what is largely a virtual General Assembly. We have gathered for virtual General Assemblies before and have found the companionship to truly enhance the experience so we are excited to do so again. Here is a little of what we have planned (subject to change as we see numbers etcetera!) We are looking for some volunteers to help make hospitality happen!

To volunteer email [GA2026@mduuc.org](mailto:GA2026@mduuc.org).

- **Friday Night** - Welcome circle and game night! We will have snacks, board games and a chance to get to know one another.
- **Saturday** - Brief gathering worship featuring Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte of Meadville-Lombard Theological School BEFORE programming starts, around 12:30 p.m.
  - **Live workshop options:**
  - “Meet the Moment”, Conversation on theology with Dr. Ortega Aponte
  - DRUUMM Gathering sponsored by the dynamic California chapter of Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries
  - Saturday Night party with special guest TheRevDrDJ
- **Sunday**
  - Live hymn sing featuring our acclaimed music director Jyvonne Haskin.
  - Opportunities for groups to arrange to lunch together informally after the closing session.
  - Session on the Free Families campaign to end the detention of children, youth and families sponsored by the Free Families Coalition.

## We Could Use Some Volunteers! Could You Help Make Hospitality Happen?

To volunteer email [GA2026@mduuc.org](mailto:GA2026@mduuc.org)

## UUA General Assembly Programming Schedule of Events

*Flexible Model that makes GA more accessible, sustainable, and connected for UUs everywhere (shown in PDT):*

### Sunday, June 14

1PM—Opening Reflection  
1:30PM—General Session I  
4:30PM—UUA Budget Hearing

### Monday, June 15

9AM—General Session II  
12:30PM—CSAI Workshop  
2PM—General Session III

### Tuesday, June 16

9AM—General Session IV  
12:30PM—CSAI Workshop  
2PM—General Session V

### Friday, June 19

5PM—(RE) Convening Worship

### Saturday, June 20

8AM—Meet The Moment Opening Program  
10:30AM—Meet The Moment, Breakout Groups

11:00AM—Featured Speakers  
12:30PM—Featured Speakers  
2PM—Meet The Moment Wrap-Up  
5PM—Ware Lecture

### Sunday, June 21

7:30AM—Community Sing  
8:00AM—Sunday Worship

## Meet the Moment with Dr. Elias Ortega Aponte Register to attend: Saturday, June 20, 12:30 p.m.



Join Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte for “Formed Freedom: Theological Advocacy in Authoritarian Times.” Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte served as a member of the UUA’s Commission on Institutional Change and holds an M.Div. and a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. His primary research areas include the sociology of religion, religious ethics, critical theory, Africana studies, and Latinx cultural studies.

## Livestreamed Events - Open to the Public

General Sessions and the Sunday Morning Worship will be livestreamed on [UUA.org](https://www.uua.org) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com); no registration is required.

Sunday Worship led by Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu will take place on June 21, 2026, at 11:00 am ET. A recording of the service will also be available on demand via YouTube shortly after the live broadcast. A downloadable version of the service will also be made available before Sunday, June 28.

## MDUUC Art Gallery - Solar Resist Art Featuring Marianna Tubman



Marianna Tubman creates striking works from fabric samples and found objects, using resist techniques that reveal color when exposed to heat or light. By layering screens, twisting fabric, or placing three-dimensional objects, she creates textured resists where depth and shadow shape each piece. Inspired by a lifelong habit of collecting shells, feathers, coins, leaves, pebbles—and

even roadside and beach finds—Marianna embraces the mystery of what these materials might become. She invites viewers to follow these works on their own journey of discovery.

*Don't have art but have ideas for exhibits —let us know.* Contact our Art Committee Chair, Randy Stansberry or Dave Fitzgerald at [artleadership@mduuc.org](mailto:artleadership@mduuc.org).

## Community Concert Series

The Community Concert Series (formerly Devil Mountain Coffee House) offers an opportunity to experience great music in a warm and informal setting. Our performers present a rich variety of musical genres: mostly acoustic, mostly original, but always wonderful. Visit [ccs.mduuc.org](http://ccs.mduuc.org) for upcoming shows.

## Exploring Whiteness Together Virtual Meeting, June 24, 4th Wednesday, 7-8PM

Interested in having a non-judgmental space to unpack what whiteness means and how it is affecting our movement through this world? This is a sacred space for white-identifying members and friends to explore decentering whiteness (anti-racism/anti-oppression) to foster growth, empathy, and tools to dismantle systemic racism. Join on the calendar and [HERE](#).

## Free Families Fridays

Need some inspiration? Have you been participating in work to support our immigrant neighbors, especially those with children? Are you interested in learning more about what is being done to help end family separation, deportation and detention? Are you in need of a way to have your spirit uplifted by song and connection? If so, please join the weekly Free Families Fridays gatherings which you can register for [here](#). This weekly gathering is designed to boost your spirits as well as connect you with other activists concerned about these efforts.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/BFn6wyu\\_R7mbIVvkQvvNoQ#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/BFn6wyu_R7mbIVvkQvvNoQ#/registration)

## Support The Community Pantry

Could you help stock our pantry with food items? We are especially in need of pasta, small containers of cooking oil, and shelf-stable milk. Drop the items on campus in Bortin Hall.

## REDUCE ELDER FRAUD WITH DROP Protect Your Data!

SIGNUP for the Delete Request and Opt-out Platform (DROP), a free tool Californians can use to help protect their privacy. The California Privacy Protection Agency (CalPrivacy) created DROP to give Californians a simple, free way to tell data brokers to delete and stop selling their personal information.

With DROP, Californians submit one request to hundreds of data brokers at once. Using DROP can help reduce spam calls and emails, lower exposure to scams, and decrease the risk of identity theft or data misuse. Data brokers often collect, repackage, and sell large amounts of personal information – like Social Security numbers, precise location, browsing history, and past purchases. They can even make and sell assumptions about your health, finances, or political views, often behind the scenes without you ever knowing.

Starting August 1, 2026, Data brokers are required by law to start processing DROP requests. Since DROP is operated by CalPrivacy, they can enforce against data brokers who violate the law. Submitting a DROP request is secure, simple, and fast – the average request takes five minutes or less and can have a big impact on your privacy.

To be eligible to submit a deletion request in DROP, you must be a California resident. For more information, verify your eligibility at <https://privacy.ca.gov/drop/how-DROP-works/#step1>

To get started, users can follow these 3 simple steps on <https://privacy.ca.gov/drop/>.

### Step 1. Verify your eligibility

Confirm that you are a California resident. Verify using one of our trusted partners.



### Step 2. Create your profile

Give basic information about yourself. You choose how much you provide.



### 3. Submit your DROP request

DROP lets you send a single request to over 500 [registered data brokers](#).



## Side With Love

Side With Love is the Organizing Strategy Team of the Unitarian Universalist Association. They harness the power of love to confront and transform systems of oppression and build a world where all people can thrive. Through organizing, education, and mobilization, they equip Unitarian Universalists and aligned communities to take spiritually grounded, justice-oriented action. [Subscribe to get updates](#).

Visit Side With Love for resources on their website at <https://sidewithlove.org/actioncenter>



### Honors, Accolades, and Thanks!

- For Joe Schellenberg, Mary-Helen Binger, and Mariann Kessler for helping with laundering towels
- For Julia McLeod for helping with Ron Ahnen’s ordination; for Sharon Solstice and Peggy Kroll for food, organizing, shopping and coordinating; Mary-Helen Binger for Ron’s stole, Scott Schrader and Mora Mattingly for song and music
- For our Chalice Choir for their service at Starr King
- For Laura Ransom for coordinating Mieke Van Hout’s Celebration of Life
- For Scott Schrader for helping with stage setup
- For Bill and Sierralynn for every Sunday
- For Sally Edgerton and Shelli Cryderman, and Carol Fidler for their leadership in Choir
- For Tom Taylor for helping with 1st Saturday work parties
- For Bruce Pennington for helping with the irrigation, grounds, and dumping waste
- For Richard Brown for ushering
- For Sharon Solstice and Jo Gelinas for cash counting
- Mariann Kessler for chancel flowers
- For Karl and Betsy Livengood for refreshing the paint on the Redwood Grove signs

We encourage gratitude and appreciation throughout MDUUC. Send “short and sweet” admissions to [thanks@mduuc.org](mailto:thanks@mduuc.org)

### Just In Time Volunteering

Here are a few simple ways you can help to welcome all

- **Join the hospitality team for GA in June!** Also a great way to meet UUs from our area! The GA Regional Event will be from June 19–21.
- **Be a Driver!** Give a ride to those who otherwise cannot come, especially to the Annual Meeting on June 7. We’ll connect you with someone in your area.
- **Help Make Coffee.** Coffee and tea helps keep the conversation flowing after services.
- **Help Support Our Shower Program.** Could you take home a load of towels and return them back within a week? Or donate shampoo and other toiletries?
- **Drive some hazardous waste to the local facility.** We could use help with disposing waste that our regular pickup does not take, which includes certain light bulbs, paint and small appliances. Please contact [admin@mduuc.org](mailto:admin@mduuc.org) to help.
- **Baked Good Donations.** We could use baked goods and snacks for Harvey Segal’s and Barbara Sugrue’s Celebration of Life.
- **Be an Usher!** We regularly need ushers on Sundays and could also use ushers for memorial services.

Gifts of time power our amazing community. Opportunities to volunteer are also listed on the Friday Weekly Email. If you can give community, email [justintime@mduuc.org](mailto:justintime@mduuc.org)



This is one of the most joyful days on our Justice calendar, and we need a few good people to show up, represent MDUUC, and have some fun. If you’re free on Saturday, June 6, anywhere between 11-4 PM, and want to spend time in the community with neighbors at Todos Santos Plaza in Concord, [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

### Support The Community Pantry

Could you help stock our pantry with food items? We are especially in need of pasta, small containers of cooking oil, and shelf-stable milk. Drop the items on campus in Bortin Hall.

### 12 Step Program

The threat of addiction is higher during difficult times. Many among us struggle with the traditional theistic language of 12 step programs and find it a great entry or a good supplement to engage with a UU specific approach to the 12 steps. **Join us on Wednesdays from noon-1p.m. online on Zoom. The link to join is available on the calendar.**

### Summer Is A Great Time For Support

Did you know that MDUUC offers many ways to seek support when you are going through some of those life-challenge moments? Consider joining us for:

- Grief and Transitions Group. Now Third Saturdays at 11 starting this month.
- Caregivers Support. Xxxxx A group for those involved in the heartfilled—and exhausting work of caregiving.
- 12 Steps for UUS. A way to get started in the 12 steps that honors that UUs often have diverse ideas of what constitutes a “higher power.”
- Health and Hope. First Saturdays at 1 p.m. A group for those living with difficult diagnoses.

Could you use a one-on-one pastoral listener? We also have an amazing group of Pastoral Visitors. Please call or speak to Rev. Leslie if this support would be valuable to you.

### Patio Seating Returning to Sundays!



As this is being written in the last days of May, we are experiencing some rain. However as soon as we are safely out of this zone, we will begin to offer outdoor seating for services once more. Need more time with your canine friend.

## Living Our Values: Actions You Can Take

The potential for justice exists in all spaces we cultivate together, including the virtual ones! Visit our web-page to participate in Justice efforts at our local, state, and national levels. This is a great way to live out our UU values, especially when we want to remain safely distanced and engaged. Visit: <https://mduuc.org/living-our-values/>

## Tuesday and Thursday Interfaith Vigils at Concord Immigration Court

Join Revs. Rodney, Ranwa, Leslie, and others as we provide the ministry of presence for folks lined up to enter the immigration court in Concord.

\*MDUUC ministers will be present every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30–9:30 a.m., with the exception of holidays when courts are closed. You are invited to sign up to let us know you are joining. Our interfaith partners will remain on-site until noon. Steps to stay connected for vigils:

1. Register to join and help us coordinate - [HERE](#)
2. Sign up for specific Dates/Times [HERE](#)

## Help Report ICE Sightings

No account required and with real-time reports.

Report here: <https://juntosseguros.com/>

## Join Contra Costa County's Signal Network

Signal is the most secure way to communicate about upcoming meetings, trainings, and actions. Bay Resistance asks that we each sign up for Signal, a key tool for organizers in cities like Portland and Minneapolis. Use this link to join our CoCo Pod Signal chat: <https://signal.group/#CjQKIEs2U2Tujbt12h9uIOPPi-7FEai-aTxjvqDHLlaQkGONEhBSeDW4e-w5A2qjR2-xSG6G>

## Share The Plate - June 14 Rainbow Community Center

Rainbow builds community, equity, and well-being among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, asexual or agender, and two-spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) people & our allies.

We envision a society that advocates for and celebrates gender and sexual diversity, racial justice, safety, and liberation for all through healing centered engagement.

We transcend its vision from inclusive to expansive\*, as we will be able to represent by centering and reaching a wider scope of Marginalized LGBTQIA2S+ and Intersectional Identities more effectively.

## Looking for Usable Screens!

We are looking for larger TV screens and computers and tablets which we can use in programming as well as cell phones which we can reequip for people in need.

## Want To Put Your Values Into Action?



In May, MDUUC hosted a virtual meeting featuring two organizations doing vital work for our neighbors: The Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and FAME's CIPN program and the new SAFE Center. If you're looking for meaningful ways to give your time, this is a good place to start. Review Rev. Rodney's Thursday Justice Email for the link to the recording.

## Thursday Virtual Homelessness 101 Events Contra Costa Health - Register to Join

Join us for an engaging and informative session designed for anyone curious about homelessness in Contra Costa. Whether you're a concerned community member, have ideas for service programs, or are seeking services yourself, this presentation is for you!

Highlights:

- Key data and trends on homelessness
- Overview of available services
- Community response initiatives
- Opportunities for involvement
- Interactive Q&A session

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, MPH. Have questions? Please email [contracostacoc@cchealth.org](mailto:contracostacoc@cchealth.org).

Please choose only one meeting to attend:

- Virtual Evening Sessions, July 16, or Oct 15 [\[register here\]](#)
- Virtual Daytime Sessions, Aug 20, or Nov 19 [\[register here\]](#)



## Let's Try to Certify as a Good Trouble Congregation!

The late Congressman John Lewis reminded us, "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something." In that spirit, the UUA are proud to continue the Good Trouble Congregations program. This initiative invites congregations to faithfully stretch their organizing and take bold action that not only makes a meaningful impact in the election, but also strengthens their long-term capacity for justice work.

## 2026 Good Trouble Congregations Criteria

This year, the Good Trouble recognition will be given to congregations that reach a certain number of goals in each of the 3 core areas.

- Voter Engagement
- Community Safety & Defense
- Community Building & Mobilizations

Learn more here and email Rev. Rodney ([rodney@mduuc.org](mailto:rodney@mduuc.org)) if you want to help lead this congregation into good trouble!!!



## Mt Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church

### **MDUUC COULD BE YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME!**

#### **MDUUC Could Be Your Spiritual Home!**

Imagine a faith community where doubt is welcome, questions inspire curiosity, and Love embraces every person who enters. This is what MDUUC strives to be.

As a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, MDUUC values exploration over conformity. Whether individuals come from Buddhist practice, Christian tradition, scientific inquiry, or no religious background at all, the congregation affirms that wisdom has many sources and each path enriches the whole.

Membership at MDUUC does not require specific beliefs; it asks for a commitment to community and social justice. Members gain the ability to vote in congregational decisions, serve in leadership roles, and represent the church at national gatherings. More importantly, membership strengthens shared purpose—especially at a time when religious freedom is under pressure nationwide. Joining a community like MDUUC becomes both an act of gratitude and a stand for progressive values.

The congregation lives its principles through action as a form of spiritual practice: offering sanctuary to immigrant families, providing food and showers to unhoused neighbors, and advocating boldly for climate justice. All are invited to consider formally joining this collective effort toward a more compassionate future. Membership Sunday is held on the first Sunday of each month, when newcomers can hear members' stories and sign the congregation's historic membership book, in use since 1951.

#### **Paper Doll Campaign of #FreeFamilies Download the Toolkit - [HERE](#)**

Join in contacting our representatives to ask them to end the practices of family detention, separation and deportation. A toolkit is available with a template, background info, and a phone script for calling your representative. Have a friend or relative in another state who might also participate? Download the toolkit provided by the Kairos Center and share with others (includes printable paperdoll template) and take action —[Download Here!](#)

#### ***Not Getting Our Emails?***

- Check your spam folder and mark "Not Spam"
- Save these MDUUC emails into your contacts
  - [no-reply@planningcenteronline.com](mailto:no-reply@planningcenteronline.com)
  - [publications@mduuc.org](mailto:publications@mduuc.org)
  - [mailer@churchcenteronline.com](mailto:mailer@churchcenteronline.com)

### **A Mindful Nature Gathering: Connecting in Uncertain Times**

**July 11, 2026 from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

**Meet at the Redwood Area near Bortin Hall**

Many of us are carrying a persistent heaviness right now. It can be hard to know what to do with all that is unfolding in the world. Beneath much of what feels frightening or destabilizing is a deeper thread of disconnection from one another, from our inner steadiness, and from the living Earth that holds us.

While this moment certainly calls to action, it also invites us to root in connection.

This 90-minute gathering offers space to:

- Connect inwardly through gentle mindful awareness of what is present for you
- Connect with one another through simple, facilitated sharing
- Connect with nature as both refuge and partner – receiving support from Nature and anchoring to our roles in supporting its many forms

Join us for this free community offering facilitated by Travis MacPhee and Jenny Hernandez. Together we will practice an ancient and deeply human response to uncertain times: slowing down, coming into relationship, and tending what is here so we may move forward more grounded, connected and whole.

All are welcome. Accessibility and inclusion will be prioritized. Please disclose any accessibility needs with your registration. Feel free to reach out to [Travis@mduuc.org](mailto:Travis@mduuc.org) with further questions.

#### **Celebration of Life for Michelle Jenkins**

Friday, June 5 at 2 p.m. | Sanctuary & Livestream

View the guestbook at: <https://mduuc.org/michelle-jenkins/>

Reception to follow in Bortin Hall.

#### **Celebration of Life for Harvey Segal**

Saturday, June 6 at 11 a.m. | Sanctuary & Livestream

View the guestbook at: <https://mduuc.org/harvey-segal/>

Reception to follow in Bortin Hall.

#### **Celebration of Life for Barbara Sugrue**

Saturday, June 13 at 2 p.m. | Sanctuary & Livestream

Visit the guestbook here: <https://mduuc.org/barbara-sugrue/>

Reception to follow in Bortin Hall.

#### **Membership Book Signing - June 7**

Thinking about joining? Have you been visiting and wondering about next steps, or interested in participating and having a voice in our congregation's future? On the first Sunday of each month, you can sign the membership book—a simple way to express your commitment to this community.

Look for a minister or board member outside the Sanctuary doors at noon, 15 minutes after the service ends.

## Ongoing Programming

*For the most accurate and up-to-date information on meeting times and dates, please refer to our calendar at <https://mduuc.org/mduuc-calendar/>. While the program descriptions provide a helpful overview of our ongoing offerings, the calendar is your go-to source for event locations, Zoom links, and registration details for events that require it. To stay informed about any changes or new opportunities, we also encourage you to join our mailing list.*

### Elder Journey

Elder Journey is a spirited conversation about life issues and the perspectives of older folks. Please join Rev. Leslie and the Elder Journey Community on Wednesdays from 10:30–11:30 a.m. The group meets weekly virtually and hybrid, in person at the Bortin Hall on the 2nd Wednesdays.

### Vespers

Vespers is a mid-week recharge for the spirit and a chance to connect to the community. This is a great place to check in with your spirit and some friendly community members.

**Upcoming dates:** June 10 and July 8 at 5 p.m. Starting August, join on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

### Ministers' Conversations - Will Resume in August.

Our ministers' conversations Join via Zoom or in-person on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at 7 p.m., of the month.

### Virtual Yoga

Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (virtual). The session begins with gentle integrated yoga asanas and stretches, breath work exercises, relaxation techniques, and opportunities to set neural pathways for happiness that include laughter yoga. A 20-minute guided relaxation meditation follows. Email [yoga@mduuc.org](mailto:yoga@mduuc.org) to join the mailing list.

### Tuesday and Thursday Virtual Lunch Groups

A friendly drop in virtual group that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom.

### Friday AM Mini-Meditation Boost

End your week with a guided meditation and an opportunity to state an intention for your self. Join Rev. Leslie on 2nd and 4th Fridays from 8:30–9:00 a.m. for this chance to destress and connect.

### Saturday Mindfulness Meditation Group

Join us on most Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m., on campus and online. Email Rose Riedel at [rose@mduuc.org](mailto:rose@mduuc.org) to be added to the group list. *\*See calendar for dates.*

### Sunday Virtual Mediation

Join Sharon Lawrence online on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email [yoga@mduuc.org](mailto:yoga@mduuc.org) to join the mailing list.

### MDUUC Choir

The MDUUC Choir is a chance to connect with others, deepen your faith, and be part of something truly special. Everyone is welcome to join, no auditions are required. *\*See calendar for dates.*

### Black, Indigenous and People of Color Caucus

3rd Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Oak Room and on Zoom (hybrid). Members and friends of MDUUC who identify as people of color are invited to join this gathering where we will create a sacred space of sharing and power. We meet monthly with alternating times—please email [leslie@mduuc.org](mailto:leslie@mduuc.org) to be apprised of our scheduled meeting times. Get in touch and learn more!

### Exploring Whiteness Together

4th Wednesday of every month from 7:00 p.m. on zoom. Members and friends who identify as white are invited to this gathering to create a sacred space where we can engage in what decentering whiteness means especially in a culture where whiteness is almost always the center. Through guided discussions and personal reflections, participants will explore their experiences with racism, learn about the impact of microaggressions and allyship, to develop actionable steps to become effective advocates for racial justice. Join us in this transformative journey to dismantle systemic racism and build a more inclusive community.

### MDUUC Bike Group

The MDUUC Bike Group holds a ride on the third Saturday of each month—all levels of ability are welcome. We meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. and carpool or ride to our starting location. Contact Jim Hughell at [bike@mduuc.org](mailto:bike@mduuc.org) to join the email list to receive and communicate plans.

### Open Women's Group

1st Thursday of every month, online from 10:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Please email [admin@mduuc.org](mailto:admin@mduuc.org) to be added to our mailing list.

### Wild and Wonderful Women's Spiritual Arts Group

2nd Wednesdays from 2–4 p.m. in the Owl room. MDUUC women to explore their spiritual lives through creative practices like writing, painting, movement, voice, ritual, and storytelling. Contact [wild-and-wonderful@mduuc.org](mailto:wild-and-wonderful@mduuc.org) with questions or to join the group!

### Men's Breakfast

2nd Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Owl Room or on Zoom. This is a group for those who are male-identified to gather for conversation and to share life experiences.

### YA, Young Adult Group at MDUUC

YA is comprised of adults ages 24–35. This group provides an opportunity for people to gather, meet and do fun things together.

### Xillennial Group (Ages 30s–40s)

This group provides opportunities to connect and gather. *Please email [xillennial-leads@mduuc.org](mailto:xillennial-leads@mduuc.org) to join the list.*

### Community Garden Group

Do you have interest in gardening but don't have a space of your own? Want to be involved in growing fresh food for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity? Any excess food grown will be part of the Faith Without Walls program. *Contact [garden@mduuc.org](mailto:garden@mduuc.org) to find out more.*

### **Buildings and Grounds Work Party\***

1st Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m.–noon. Join our to help beautify our campus while connecting with members and getting a few tasks done that cannot be done by one person alone! If you can, bring and share snacks to refuel! Contact [admin@mduuc.org](mailto:admin@mduuc.org) with questions. \*Weather permitting. We will need help in February to prepare for spring.

### **Wednesday Virtual 12 Step for UUs**

Join virtually on Wednesdays at 12 p.m. as we share our experience, strength, and hope with one another. No matter what addiction you have, you are welcome to join us as we engage in recovery as Unitarian Universalists.

### **Grief Group / Transitions Group**

This is a monthly, drop-in group for those who have suffered a loss or for people undergoing life transitions to continue to gather support. This group works for people who are going through a change of relationship, retiring or other job status change, experiencing stress or those in the later stages of grief who are rebuilding and reassessing. Next date: Friday, June 5 at noon. *Please see the calendar for future dates and join Rev. Leslie for this monthly conversation.*

### **Memory Matters Group**

4th Saturdays at 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Oak Room and on Zoom (hybrid). This friendly, drop-in group is for those experiencing loss of memory or new difficulties with familiar tasks to come together to share in memory strengthening exercises, experiences and for support.

### **Health and Hope Group**

\*1st Saturdays at 4 p.m. Health and Hope is a group for people who have a difficult diagnosis. Please consider joining Rev. Leslie if you could use a space to talk about the challenges of living with a life-altering condition.

### **Virtual Monthly Caregiver Support Group**

Care-giving for a loved one can be challenging. Our drop-in virtual, monthly support group meets the 1st Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### **Parent Group**

The Parent Group meets on the 1st Sundays from 12-1:30 pm. Childcare will be available.

### **Parents and Toddlers Group**

The Parents and Toddlers Group meets on the 3rd Sundays from 9–10:30 am. Childcare will be available.

### **MSYG, Middle School Youth Group**

MSYG meets on Sundays 12–1:30 pm.

### **YRUU, High School Youth Group**

YRUU meets on Sundays, from 12:00–1:30 p.m.

### **Emerging Adults (Ages 18-24)**

MDUUC's Emerging Adults supports each other as they navigate life transitions from post high school into adulthood. Whether it's a new skill, game night, or a delicious meal, the emerging adult group is the place to be!

## **Dances of Universal Peace - 4th Sundays**

Join us for an interfaith, multi-cultural, spiritual practice with singing, moving, prayers to promote inner peace. Led by SierraLynne & Bill Wentz with friends.

No partner or experience needed. All abilities are welcome!

*No dance circles in June, July or August.*

### *Do You Have A Skill Or An Area Of Knowledge To Share?*

One of the joys of MDUUC is to learn about the many talents people can offer. Learning together is also a great way to connect with new people. If you have an idea for an adult class you would like to offer, email Rev. Leslie Takahashi at [leslie@mduuc.org](mailto:leslie@mduuc.org) and put "ADULT" in the email subject line.

### *Did You Know?*

MDUUC has a space for scattering the cremains of beloved companion animals in the Robert De Vight Legacy Garden. If you would like to have a minister participate in helping you with the scattering, please contact Rev. Leslie Takahashi.

### **Board of Trustees**

Linda Russell, President  
Andrew Oswald, Vice President  
Mark Chase, Secretary  
Elizabeth Dietsch, Treasurer

### **Trustees**

Andy Smith, Kevin Hsieh, Jim Lincoln,  
Mary Kelly Persyn, Patricia Craven

## **Recorded Meditations Available Online**

Visit our website for virtual meditations

<https://mduuc.org/virtual-meditation/>

Listen on Soundcloud! Search for "MDUUC"

<https://soundcloud.com/search?q=mduuc>

Also available on Spotify! Search for "Mt. Diablo Unitarian  
Universalist Church" or "Beacon Light"

<https://open.spotify.com/show/4iQZnnkS3HIXBa94JRuMin>



## **Follow Us on BlueSky!**

With all the recent attention to the nefarious activities of some of our social media platforms, you might want to be reminded that MDUUC is on Bluesky. You can follow us at [@mduuc.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/mduuc.org) and Rev. Leslie Takahashi [@leslietakahashi.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/leslietakahashi.bsky.social).

## **July/August Beacon Deadline**

Wednesday, June 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Please send submissions to [publications@mduuc.org](mailto:publications@mduuc.org).

All submissions are subject to editing for space and approval.



Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church  
55 Eckley Lane  
Walnut Creek CA 94596

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### MDUUC Ministers and Staff

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Bluesky: [mduuc.bsky.social](https://www.mduuc.org)  
 Podcast on Spotify - Beacon Light



### Join Us for the Annual Meeting – June 7, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. –

Our Annual Meeting is an important exercise in our Congregational democratic process. There are three ways to participate: on campus, on Zoom and through absentee ballot. We will have a short Sunday service in the Sanctuary and livestream, followed by a congregational meeting. The service will end around 11:10, and there will be a short pause to end the livestream, bring the Zoom tech online, and register online attendees.

If you are a member, we need your vote! If you cannot attend in person, please register to attend online via the password protected member area of our website,

<https://mduuc.org/member-area/>

- *You do not need to register if you are coming in person.*
- *Voting eligibility: You must have been a member for at least 30 days.*
- *If you need help accessing the member area, send an email to [admin@mduuc.org](mailto:admin@mduuc.org)*

#### Items of Business To Include:

- Slate of candidates for: Board of Trustees, Legacy Committee and Nominating Committee
- 2026-2027 MDUUC Budget
- Consideration to further explore changing the MDUUC Name
- And other business shared in the member area

**...Afterwards stay for the Ice Cream Social Fundraiser!**