



**UCC
Petaluma**

A Ministry of Hope | Open & Affirming
Servants of the Just & the Good.

Sunday, June 4, 2023

Web: www.uccpetaluma.org

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*To Heal, Inspire and Empower in the Way of Jesus
So that all people may create lives of deeper meaning and greater value.*

News & Opportunities - Sunday and Beyond...

This Sunday: “Our Spiritual Journeys” with Anne Nancy Vosler speaking. You won’t want to miss this extraordinary Sunday when one of our own shares reflections of her spiritual journey that will leave you saying “Wow, I never knew!” Our Spiritual Journeys has proven to be one of the most requested Sunday alternatives to our regular worship that we have ever offered. Bring a friend!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for a viewable and printable Sunday Bulletin.

Next Sunday: Pentecost with Pastor Jason

It’s Pride Month! Sonoma County Pride takes place this weekend at Old Courthouse Square in Santa Rosa. The Annual Pride Parade is held on Saturday, June 3 at 6pm, leaving from the Old Courthouse Square and heading down 4th street in Santa Rosa. Festival to follow! Please see the calendar of opportunities to support and celebrate Pride in our community [here](#).

Ways to be of service to UCCP!

Interested in being of service? UCCP is always in need of extra hands to ensure Sunday Worship is the peaceful experience we all desire. If you are able, willing and would like to help set-up for Fellowship Hour, make coffee for congregants, greet those who enter Sanctuary, or help clean-up after Fellowship Hour, please reach out to Marcella Bradley at uccpetaluma@gmail.com to volunteer!

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, June 4 at 7pm: Interfaith Service and Religious Witness for Queer Rights 7pm at the Glaser Center in Santa Rosa. Join local faith communities as we celebrate the diversity of the LGBTQAI+ community and join our voices to call for meaningful social change! Expect music, prayer, joy, and solidarity.

Tuesday, June 6 at 9:00am: Walk the River Park for Older Adults! See more below in Opportunities for Spiritual Learning & Action.

Tuesday, June 20 at 10am: UCC Petaluma Book Group is reading “Jesus’ Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount” by Richard Rohr. We will be engaging with chapters 4, 5 and 6. The study of the Sermon on the Mount itself starts on June 20th, so it is not too late to join. Please note that we have moved our group to the 3rd Tuesday of every month! Contact Paul Eklof for details at Peklof@pacbell.net. We currently gather by zoom at 10a.m. using the Zoom ID: 282 945 1345 Password = “ucc”

Opportunities for Spiritual Learning & Action

Walk the River Park for Older Adults! Beginning Tuesday June 6, join a weekly walk every Tuesday morning at 9:00am to enjoy the 1.5 mile round-trip loop at the Petaluma River Park. You will be accompanied by others looking to soak in the beauty of the Park in a group setting!

Learn more about Studios at Montero with COTS

[Studios at Montero](#) is the result of a successful partnership to convert a dilapidated and dangerous 50-year-old motel into 60 units of newly remodeled permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless people in Sonoma County. COTS has partnered with Burbank Housing and the City of Petaluma on this incredible project. Studios at Montero (“SAM”) officially welcomed the first tenants earlier this month. All 60 units at SAM are fully remodeled studio units which come fully furnished. We at UCCP are partnering with COTS to provide one of the new tenants with a [welcome-home basket](#) full of household goods to help ensure a successful and warm transition into their new homes.

The Studios at Montero offers long-term, wraparound supportive services at this project, ensuring tenants feel safe and supported during their transition into permanent housing. Tenants are offered comprehensive case management, peer support services, access to onsite and offsite group recreation, healthcare coordination, and many other supportive services to help create a sense of safety, self-sufficiency, and instill confidence.

Projects like Studios at Montero bring hope to those experiencing homelessness right here in Sonoma County. Here at COTS, we have an immense sense of pride in serving our community, and we thank you for your continued support in upholding our mission. Click on the links above in this article to learn more!

Feed All Who Hunger: Repeal Drug Felony Ban on SNAP

Denying access to a vital program like SNAP because of past or current involvement with the drug trade does not promote public safety or deter crime. Rather, it adds another cruel and needless barrier to successful re-entry and rebuilding of lives. Due to discrimination in the workforce of people with criminal records, those with felony convictions are at greater risk of poverty and hunger which in turn adds more difficulty in securing employment, housing, and other essential needs, especially those critical to addiction recovery. Banning people for prior convictions increases the likelihood of recidivism. It also exacerbates hunger for their family by denying resources to feed their children or elders in their care. Maintaining this ban says that our society believes some people deserve to go hungry. Congress has the opportunity to right this wrong by passing the Re-Entry Support Through Opportunities for Resources and Essentials (RESTORE) Act. This bill would reform the 1996 law and repeal the SNAP ban for

felony drug convictions. It could also be incorporated in this year's Farm Bill, which authorizes SNAP. As people of faith seeking to love mercy and do justice, we must lift our collective voices and tell our leaders that hunger should not be a reality for anyone. [Click here to Take Action](#)

Petaluma Climate Justice

The Petaluma Equitable Climate Action Coalition (PECAC) partnered with the City of Petaluma to conduct a 6-month equitable civic engagement program designed to help the City better understand how vulnerable communities are impacted by climate change – and how we can mitigate these impacts by making public transportation, bike lanes, and sidewalks more accessible. This program has been completed and recommendations can be found in the attached PowerPoint presentation. They also developed an interactive map highlighting their recommendations (linked below).

Link to Interactive Map: [Interactive Map](#)

Link to Presentation PowerPoint: [PECAC 2023 Presentation PowerPoint](#)

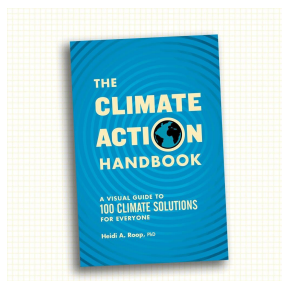
Tell Congress to Pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Our nation's wildlife faces multiple threats in the form of habitat fragmentation and degradation, disease, invasive species, pollution, and extreme weather disasters. According to the National Wildlife Federation, one-third of America's wildlife species are at the risk of extinction. All categories of animals are seeing population declines, with 150 U.S. species already declared extinct, over 1,600 listed as endangered, and nearly 500 species have gone unseen for decades that are possibly extinct. This is not only an unfortunate loss of biodiversity but also harms humans ecologically and economically. What harms our furry, feathered, and scaly neighbors also inevitably harms us. In 2021, the UCC General Synod called on the church to "promote the Rights of Nature," Let us take up our sacred responsibility to protect all life beginning with this land. Call on your representatives today!

Raise Your Voice to End Gun Violence

It feels like each week we are grieving yet another tragic loss of life due to gun violence. And it's no wonder; our country is flooded with guns. It's easier to buy a gun than many other regulated goods, including Sudafed (which requires an I.D. and there's a limit on the amount you can buy). Nearly half of the civilian-owned guns in the world are owned by U.S. citizens. Our elected leaders have the power to do more to end gun violence. This includes robust background check legislation, closing loopholes on gun sales (making sure it's difficult for people who want to commit violence to access weapons), safe storage laws, community violence prevention, and importantly an assault and high capacity weapons ban. [Click Here](#) to email your leaders.

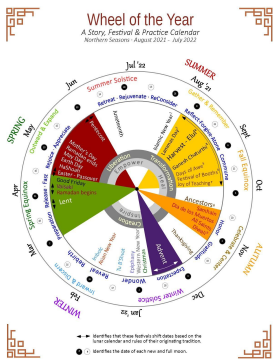
A Practical take on Climate Action: from Personal to Communal



[Click Here to read this insightful NYT article](#) referencing a practical guide to what you can do as an individual to make real contributions to Climate Action at a level that moves from self to globe.

Support Transgender Healthcare

The well-being of transgender and non-binary youth is being debated in legislative sessions across the United States. As of March 3 there have been 385 anti-LGBTQ bills introduced, with 108 of these bills aiming to end gender affirming healthcare for trans and non-binary youth. This places more than 54,000 trans youth actively taking life-saving gender affirming medical care at risk. This is the highest number of anti-LGBTQ bills ever introduced in a single legislative season. Please [click here](#) to send your support to congress to defend the marginalized and vulnerable in our nation.



[Click Here to download a new Wheel of the Year for 2023.](#) This visual tool is a helpful guide to your spiritual practice - connecting your unique faith to the festivals of our tradition in relation to the traditions of billions of others around the globe & the unique practices of your household. If you would like a printed copy of the Wheel, we would be pleased to make one for you. Please reply to this email. You can also download a copy at our [website](#).

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

13: Terri Reischling
13: Kim Shippey
13: Steve Ayala
17: David Carballal
19: Joyce Zeeb
25: Heidi Jones
27: Barbara DeLeon
29: Cynthia Eggers

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6: Michael and Anne Nancy Vosler
25: Keenan and Patty Foster