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**Summary of Sunday Services**

**10:30 AM**

**July 1: The Patriot, the Traitor, the Activist and the Monte Vistan**

Lay Leader: Chris Sanchez

Worship Associate: Catherine Rowlee

Music Director: Lily Popova

These days, the institutions of our once vibrant democracy are being silently dismantled. As Americans and as UUs, will our role be that of silent watcher, vocal combatant or something between these two extremes?

**July 8: "We Sing Now Together" Hymnbook Sing-a-long**

Lay Leaders: Jeanne Coats & Abraham Peraza

Come join in singing and learning songs from our hymnbook, "Singing the Living Tradition" and "Singing the Journey" as we experience and learn how music impacts the way we worship. There will be lots of congregational singing!!! Lily Popova will be the pianist.

**July 15: BUUK GrUUp Presentation**

Lay Leader: Julie Steinbach

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it" George Santayana. Does examination of *our* nation's history offer reassurance that all will end well? Which parts of our past should we look to for guidance? Join Mary Darrow and Sandra Grajeda as they explore these issues.

**July 22: Envisioning a Balanced Life**

Rev. Ellen Livingston, minister emeritus MVUUC

These times, for most of us, are out of whack. The center just does not hold. Our world, especially in our American society, does not seem balanced, the earth is moving under our feet, and it's not an earthquake this time. Meanwhile, I look forward to sharing from my own life experiences, and calling on others for counsel, on how to achieve some much needed harmony in our lives.

**Summary of Sunday Services  
(Continued)  
10:30 AM**

**July 29: Cultivating Our Creativity**  
Lay Leaders: Amy Randall and Catherine Rowlee

We are all creative beings, as the impulse to create is part of our yearning to live. When we engage in the arts as a spiritual practice we cultivate a relationship to the greater universe. Join us for an interactive, hands-on opportunity to experience the creative process and nourish your own spirit.



**MVUUC Has a New Minister - the Rev. Pratima Dharm!**

At the special Congregational Meeting after the Worship Service on June 24, the congregation voted 79-3 to call Rev. Pratima Dharm to be our full-time, settled minister. She has accepted!

The congregation welcomed her return to the sanctuary for the announcement with a verse of "Come Sing a Song with US" followed by a chorus of "Happy Birthday", since Sunday was Rev. Dharm's birthday. Rev. Dharm then spoke briefly about her love and hopes for the congregation followed by a ritual of blessing.

Rev. Dharm will be starting her ministry at MVUUC on August 15, 2018.

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**Pastoral Care  
July 1 – August 14**



Our new minister, Rev. Dharm begins her ministry with us on August 15. If you are in need of pastoral care before August 15, please contact Rev. Maggie Yenoki at [chaplain.maggie@gmail.com](mailto:chaplain.maggie@gmail.com) or 626.205.4458

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## President's Message

Dear Beloved, BeUUtiful Community,

On June 24<sup>th</sup> I opened our Special Congregational Meeting to call the Reverend Pratima Dharm to be our full-time settled minister with the following words by Josh, Prudence, & Percival Robern:

### Shared Light, Shared Future

We are all flames.  
When we gather  
hand in hand  
our church  
our community  
our home  
We inspire,  
We celebrate,  
We come together  
Sharing our light  
of hope  
for our shared future.

We truly are sharing our light of hope for our shared future—and sharing it with a new minister!

After announcing our congregational vote to call Rev. Pratima, there was huge cheer from all. Rev. Pratima was invited into the sanctuary where we told her she was our new minister and sang “Come Sing a Song with Us”. And as we all connected to each other by touching shoulders or holding hands, in a very emotional speech, Rev. Pratima accepted and told the congregation that she loves us, just the way we are, that we don’t need to change anything, but we do need to transform, and she will be transforming too—because that’s what we come to church for—to be transformed!

I can’t wait to see what transformations our shared future will bring to this beloved congregation of ‘Many Beliefs, One Community’.

In service,  
*Rita Salama*

Board meetings are usually held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month; they are open meetings and visitors are welcome to attend. If you wish to speak to an issue, please contact the Board President at least one week in advance to be placed on the agenda.

**The 2018/2019 Board Members are:**

- Rajiv Chokshi--Co-President
- Cyndi Allaire--Co-President
- Nick Von Glahn--Co-Vice-President
- Joseph Greene--Co-Vice-President
- Terrie Maguire--Secretary
- Chris Sanchez--Treasurer
- Elizabeth Meehan--At large

**Important Dates**

1. August 15—Rev. Pratima Dharm begins her ministry at MVUUC
2. September 22—Unbirthday Party

**Highlights of the June 13, 2018 MVUUC Board Meeting**

- **New Board Members were welcomed**
- **Ministerial Search Timeline**—Alan Worley discussed the schedule for Candidating Week and the contract for Rev. Pratima Dharm. Rev. Dharm has been offered the top range for salary and housing plus all regular benefits except medical insurance which is provided via her military service. The Board had previously approved the benefits and the salary range which was in the budget the congregation approved on June 10. The Congregation must approve the call to Rev. Dharm for full-time settled ministry with MVUUC on June 24 after the service.
- **New Board Officers**—Terrie Maguire agreed to be secretary; Nick Von Glahn and Joseph Greene will remain co-vice presidents; no decision was made about president. Rajiv Chokshi and Elizabeth Meehan are considering a co-presidency. A vote on officers will be done by email. Next month the meeting time will remain the same.  
Note: As of June 17, Rajiv Chokshi and Cyndi Allaire agreed to be Co-Presidents. The slate was approved by email before July 1.
- **New DLRE Job Description**—Reviewed and approved.
- **Chalice Lighter Grant**—Reviewed the Chalice Lighter grants and the Spirit Level Matching Grants referred to in the adopted budget. Plans to notify members to boost our donors to Chalice Lighters to the 20% level needed for a grant.
- **Communication Committee**— Plans to reinstate.
- **Land Use Task Force update**—Plans are on hold as CMI works with the city of Montclair on zoning. This may take a couple of years.

**Board of Trustees Gratitude:**

To each of the 2018/2019 Board of Trustees for accepting the nomination to serve on the Board.  
To Marlene Terrazas for the many ways she gives her time to MVUUC, particularly to our RE program.

The Board appreciates all those who share their time and talents at MVUUC.  
If you know of someone who deserves special recognition for their service to our community please contact the Co-Board Presidents, Rajiv Chokshi or Cyndi Allaire.

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**MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Friends,

It has been a year long journey in our ministerial search. We are overjoyed the congregation embraced Reverend Dharm as our new settled minister. We had a busy month with Candidating Week with Reverend Dharm. After her second Sunday Service with us, we held a Congregational Meeting where she was voted to be our next Settled Minister. The congregation welcomed her with a verse of "Come Sing a Song with US (Me), followed by a chorus of "Happy Birthday", since June 24th is Rev Dharm's Birthday. It has been a time of laughs, hopes, dreams, and tears all bringing us to this point. Thank you to everyone who participated in the events of Candidating week and the Congregational meeting, along with all the joint efforts of the Board of Trustees, the Negotiating Team, and Tricia our office administrator extraordinaire! We will conclude our duties as the MSC shortly after Rev. Dharm begins her time with us. Thank you for your confidence, trust, and continued patience throughout this past year. We are grateful we had the opportunity to be of service to our beloved community.

The Ministerial Search Committee

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**Land Use Task Force**

**Update from LAND USE TASK FORCE - May 24, 2018**

Today Bruce Mount, Rita Salama and I met with a new Vice President of CIM Group, Inc. who is now handling the plans and construction for Montclair Place and the surrounding area. Patrick Rhodes is introducing himself to all parties associated with the mall project. We think Patrick is dedicated to moving forward with the project in a positive way, and he reassured us that their commitment to MVUUC hasn't changed.

However, we did learn that progress will be slower than we first thought. Originally we thought zoning overlay would take less time, and that hasn't proven to be true. The area to be rezoned is bordered by the 10 Freeway, Monte Vista Ave., Moreno St., and Central Ave; they hope the zoning is complete near the end of 2019. This will be more turtle than rabbit.

Some of you have seen the old Broadway Department store on the east side coming down over the last few months. We learned that in December, CIM will begin construction of the new AMC theater on the 2nd floor of the mall. As we learn more, so shall you. We just need to be more patient than we previously thought.

Maribel Dana,  
Chair, Land Use Task Force

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## Social Justice Coordinating Committee News

Margaret Davis

MVUUC members are activists! This month's column highlights two of our members and their work for justice.

The Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. Their work under the direction of Bryan Stevenson includes legal representation and advocacy, post incarceration support, community education, and so much more. Please see their website: <https://eji.org/about-eji>. In April they opened the doors to the National Memorial and the Legacy Museum.

I had the opportunity to visit the memorial and museum in May and was moved beyond words. Beyond words, meaning not just educated but inspired toward action. Our own Debbi Scurto volunteered for the opening events. In her words:

*Hundreds of volunteers from near and far came to welcome visitors to local hotels, help with directions and crowd control at special events, and at the opening days at the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Inspirational events including the Sunrise Service at the Memorial soared through a rainy and windy morning. Local clergy spoke and prayed for the understanding and healing that these places and their teachings would facilitate. Reverend Jesse Jackson and Representative John Lewis added their words and guidance, and Sweet Honey in the Rock, Bebe Winans and others lifted us up with their musical talents.*

*The mood throughout the week was positive, and emotional experiences and growth were palpable. A determination to make a lasting difference was shared by those attending, as well as by the many celebrities and dignitaries participating. The Opening Ceremony on Thursday night, the Peace and Justice Summit, and the Concert for Peace and Justice featured an amazing group of dignitaries and artists. Former VP Al Gore, Senator Corey Booker, Senator Doug Jones, Gloria Steinem, Marian Wright Edelman, Rev. Dr. William Barber, Anna Deavere Smith, Ava DuVernay, Elizabeth Alexander, Alfre Woodard, Common, John Legend, Usher, Dave Matthews, Brittany Howard, Anthony Ray Hinton (exonerated after 29 years on death row), Mamie Kirkland (age 107 whose family fled Mississippi in 1915 to save her father from lynching) and more, shared their ideas, experiences, work, and talents while helping to connect us with the message to (in the words of Bryan Stevenson) "advance truth and reconciliation around race in America and to more honestly confront the legacy of slavery, lynching, and segregation. Our nation's history of racial injustice casts a shadow across the American landscape. This shadow cannot be lifted until we shine the light of truth on the destructive violence that shaped our nation, traumatized people of color, and compromised our commitment to the rule of law and to equal justice. It is our hope that these new national institutions will facilitate another step toward that crucial goal."*

MVUUC member Madeline Rios has been a driving force behind the Latino/ Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel/Pomona Valley. This group has worked with the local chapter of the NAACP, and earlier this year opened the Solidarity Center which houses both groups. In June these groups participated in the Poor People's Campaign Solidarity March and Rally in Pomona and Madeline spoke eloquently. To learn more about the Poor People's Campaign, see: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/demands/>

Here are the words Madeline shared at the Solidarity Rally:

*All of us present at this Poor Peoples' Campaign are surely aware that more than 2,000 refugee children have been separated from their parents in the past two months by the U.S. Border Patrol and placed in government custody. Though widely reported as unprecedented policy, this practice repeats the history of forced removal of children to Indian Boarding Schools in the U.S. and Canada starting in the 1800s and lasting more than a century, designed to strip Native Americans of their identities, spiritualities, culture and language, leaving devastating intergenerational physiological, psychological and emotional trauma. This is the intent and effect of the current family separation policy. It is an escalation of a 136 year-old strategy against immigrant peoples, built into the fabric of our laws and culture. From the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 to the current threats against more than 1,000,000 DACA and TPS recipients who have lived in the country for decades, our immigration system is foundational to a society that Minneapolis City Councilmember Andrea Jenkins, a black transgender woman, recently characterized as "built on stolen land and built by stolen labor."*

*On a federal, state, and local level, millions of immigrants and refugees are systematically denied basic rights: Even the most innocent victims of U.S. foreign policy such as the U.S. backing of the Honduran coup in 2009, to name just one instance, are targeted. These integral members of our communities are declared illegal, permanently disenfranchised, denied the right to employment, taxed to provide benefits from which they are excluded, subject to being detained and exiled from this, their country of destination, despite their many contributions to its cultural and economic wealth. State governments add yet another layer of discrimination; most of the states deny the right to drive, higher education, and medical coverage for those so marked for persecution. Here in California, the directly affected communities and their allies have won much. This very city of Pomona was a major center in the 2013 campaign through which more than one million undocumented people now have a driver's license. Yet that essential document could well be called 3/5 of a license, marked to indicate the driver's undocumented status, thus exposing its holder to harassment, vigilantism and profiling. And our state still refuses to issue a California I.D. to the undocumented. At a local level, street vendors and day laborers, forced into marginal employment through employer sanctions, I-9 audits, and social security number checks, are often harassed and illegalized.*

*Our nation professes "liberty and justice for all." Whether that slogan is used as a jingoistic fantasy or as a guide to achieving justice is up to us. The pursuit of full immigrant rights is an essential component in the fight for democracy and for our moral integrity. Our loving indignation and concerted action can and must break the cycle of oppression. ¡Que vivan los inmigrantes y que viva nuestra unidad!*

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## Wheel of the Year

### A Pagan Perspective On The Seasons

#### Litha, Summer Solstice, or Midsummer—June 20-22

I know that the Solstice has passed, but it's not too far in the past and because there is no Sabbat in July, and, because I missed writing an article for June, I thought it a good time to catch up with the Wheel.

Litha, Mid-summer, Summer Solstice: Whatever they call it, nearly every agricultural society has marked the high point of summer in some way, shape or form. On this date—usually around June 21 or 22 (or December 21/22 in the southern hemisphere) —the sun reaches its zenith in the sky. It is the longest day of the year, and the point at which the sun seems to just hang there without moving – in fact, the word “solstice” is from the Latin word *solstitium*, which literally translates to “sun stands still.” The travels of the sun were marked and recorded. Stone circles such as Stonehenge were oriented to highlight the rising of the sun on the day of the summer solstice.

No world body has designated an official day to start each new season, and different schools of thought or traditions define the seasons in different ways. In meteorology, for example, summer begins on June 1. Pagans celebrate the beginning of summer at Beltane, May 1, and, every school child knows that summer starts when the last school bell of the year rings.

Yet today, The Solstice is perhaps the most widely recognized day upon which summer begins in the Northern Hemisphere and upon which winter begins on the southern half of Earth's globe. There's nothing official about it, but it's such a long-held tradition that we all recognize it to be.

As was mentioned above, to Pagans of the European traditions, the Summer Solstice is not the beginning of summer but its central point, hence another of its names, Mid-summer, when the Fairies are wont to flit about, and magic is afoot.

This is the time of the Mother Goddess at the fullness of her strength, sexuality and fertility. This is the time when the Lord of the Green is at his greatest strength and virility. There is abundance everywhere, a time for blessing and being blessed, for the fruits and grains of the field and for the rich promise of the harvest to come. We are called to toss away the stuffiness of civilization and adult formalities for a while, to seek the mystery and join in singing and dancing with joyful abandon. Yet as we look about us to the hills and wild places, we see that it is also a time when repose and luxuriant restoration, soaking up the sun, is also in order. Come, let us celebrate the season, The Light that Awakens, joining those of generations past in a direct line of praise and honor to our Earth.

**Litha Speaks:**

I am Litha!  
I am the fire that burns within your soul  
I am the Holy light that fills and makes you whole  
I am the flame that never dies  
I am the sun that will forever rise  
I am the fire that clears away the old,  
I am the holy light that guides your soul  
I am the flame of love for which you yearn  
I am the sun that will always return.

As you contemplate the Solstice season, light a candle and focus on the transformative qualities of fire and our life giving Sun. For Fire is the Sun's emissary on the earth. Fire can be contained, but not controlled. Fire is the element of transformation and illumination. The old is burned away, and what comes out is totally different: The blacksmith transforms ore into steel; raw meat becomes a delicious meal; logs become embers, and darkness becomes light. Today the world is in dire need of transformation: swords into plowshares, hate into love, indifference into caring, war into peace. Therefore, as you gaze at your candle flame, invoke the transformative power of Fire, symbolically and literally, to light the Flame of Peace into the world.

Until Next Time, Blessed Be!  
Jeanne Coats

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MVUUC Calendar – July 2018

MVUUC Calendar, Founders' Room, Minister's Office, Patio / Outdoors, Room 1, Room 3, Room 8, Sanctuary, Worship Jul 2018 (Pacific Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - The Patriot, 12pm - Ministerial 12pm - RE Meeting @ 2pm - Afriean Drum	2 6:30pm - Circle Singers	3	4 Independence Day 6pm - Personnel 6:30pm - Set Up - Clear 7pm - Finance	5 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Mucio and 7:30pm - Choir	6 10:30am - Staff	7
8 8:30am - Men's 10:30am - "We Sing Now 12pm - Ministerial 12pm - RE Council 2pm - Afriean Drum	9	10 10am - Buuk Group @	11 6:30pm - Board of	12 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Facilities 7:30pm - Choir	13 10:30am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUPs Liquid 9pm - Private @	14
15 8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - Worship 12pm - Ministerial 12pm - Social Justice 2pm - Afriean Drum	16 6:30pm - Circle Singers	17	18 6:30pm - Set Up - Clear 7:15pm - Meditation/CI	19 6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Membership 7:30pm - Choir	20 10:30am - Staff	21
22 10:30am - Worship 12pm - Ministerial 2pm - Afriean Drum	23	24	25	26 4pm - Social Justice 6pm - Choir Set-up and 7:30pm - Choir	27 10:30am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUPs Liquid 9pm - Private @	28
29 10:30am - Worship 12pm - Ministerial 2pm - Afriean Drum	30	31	1	2	3	4

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Office Hours: Monday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Telephone: 909-626-0520, Office email: [officeadmin@montevistauu.org](mailto:officeadmin@montevistauu.org)

Bookkeeper: Tracy Batres (Monday: 12:30 - 4:30 PM, Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon)  
Office Administrator: Tricia French (Monday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM)  
Facilities Assistant: Joyce Armenta (Tuesday, Friday: 6:30 AM - 11:30 AM)

**Membership**

We encourage all inquiries about becoming part of this wonderful, warm and welcoming community.  
For more information, please contact Elizabeth Meehan at 949-290-2615



Send newsletter articles to [officeadmin@montevistauu.org](mailto:officeadmin@montevistauu.org) by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month.



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