

OCTOBER 2023



UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

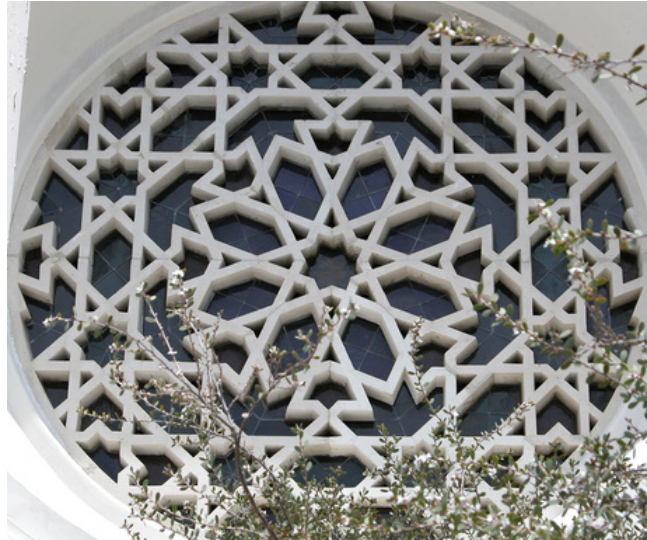
**INSIDE THIS  
MONTH'S  
ISSUE:**

**Upcoming  
Services**

**Fall means  
Auction!**

**Office Manager,  
Roberta**

**ARE this Fall**



*Living with Integrity - Nurturing Wonder - Inspiring Action*

**SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER**

**Services at 10:00 AM  
In-Person and Online**

**Sunday, October 1**

**The Holiday of Sukkot**

*with Rabbi Arthur Gross-Schaefer*

What is that structure in the Garden?  
It's a "sukkah" - the traditional temporary shelter built for the Jewish festival of Sukkot, remembering the 40 years the Jewish people spent wandering in the desert after escaping slavery in Egypt. Rabbi Gross-Schaefer will share with us more about this festival.

**Sunday, October 8**

**Repairing**

*with Rev. Julia Hamilton*

In recognition of Indigenous People's Day, how do we approach the concept of "repair" when it comes to the legacy of colonialism and genocide against the indigenous peoples of the Americas? What is the USSB Indigenous Reparations Fund all about, and why does it matter that we, as Unitarian Universalists, engage in this work?

**Sunday, October 15**

**Nature & Transcendence**

*with Peter Hale & Melinda Staveley*



**Sunday, October 22**

**From Access to Inclusion**

*with Rev. Julia Hamilton & Allison Andrews*

What is it like to live here in Santa Barbara when you move through the world in a different way? Rev. Julia and USSB member Allison Andrews have been talking about the challenges of living in Santa Barbara as a person with disabilities. How can the Unitarian Society be a community of welcome in a world full of barriers to access and inclusion?

Note: If you are a member of USSB who identifies as a person with disabilities and would like to be a part of this conversation, please reach out to Rev. Julia

**Sunday, October 29**

**Love is the Thread**

*with Rev. Julia Hamilton*

Laughter and tears, memories and mementos. What we keep and what we let go.

Love is the thread that binds us to those who have died but live on in our hearts. Our ancestors and beloved dead are always with us - let us celebrate them on this special Sunday. Please bring photos and mementos for our All Souls altar!

# FALL IN ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



## ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES (SOUP'S ON!)

Wednesday, October 4, 2023  
6 – 8 pm  
Parish Hall  
Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara  
1535 Santa Barbara St.

## ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES BEGINS OCTOBER 4, 6-8 PM PARISH HALL



Environmental Film Series & SOUP'S ON  
(bring your water bottle, bowl & spoon)  
Featuring short films and discussion  
focused on things that we as  
individuals can DO to help mitigate the  
climate crisis & to draw attention to  
political and economic forces. We'll  
wrap up at eight. Tell your friends,  
families, and neighbors. All are  
welcome.

## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES FORUM: TRUMP VS. US LEGAL SYSTEM, AN EVENING WITH STEVEN ZIPPERSTEIN OCTOBER 11, 7-9 PM PARISH HALL



### Trump vs. the US Legal System: Who Will Win?



An evening with  
**Steven Zipperstein**  
Former Chief Legal Officer and  
Federal Prosecutor

**Wednesday, October 11, 7:00-9:00 PM**

The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara  
1535 Santa Barbara Street

Steve Zipperstein well known speaker on Trumps legal complexities will discuss the current attempts to upend our judicial system and avoid legal accountability for his actions. Even if convicted of the criminal charges pending, will he be entitled to be on the ballot? What if he wins—can he still serve as President? These and related questions will be illuminated by this outstanding speaker! Contact [Johnwwarnock@gmail.com](mailto:Johnwwarnock@gmail.com) for more information.



# CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

**Interested in joining the fun?**

Contact Charla Bregante, Director of Adult & Family Religious Exploration  
charla@ussb.org



## CRE FALL KICKOFF CARNIVAL!



THIS IS WHAT  
CHILDREN'S  
RELIGIOUS  
EXPLORATION  
LOOKS LIKE AT  
USSB



# USSB AUCTION

## FALL FEST: DONATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 9

Our Annual fundraising auction is where our entire congregation comes to celebrate, meet old friends and new, and fill their social calendars with exquisite services and special events throughout the year, while raising important funds for our operating budget. Join us to bid on hundreds of exciting items, enjoy live music, fall treats, beverages, dancing, wine raffles, and spin our Wheel of Fortune! Wear a costume to celebrate Halloween and be entered into our costume contest. Early, online bidding: October 18-20th  
In-person bidding and the main event: October 21st 2pm-5pm @USSB



EARLY (ONLINE) BIDDING OPENS OCTOBER 18TH

SAVE THE DATE!

**USSB AUCTION: FALL FEST**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**

**2PM-5PM**

CELEBRATE FALL - BID ON WONDERFUL ITEMS - SUPPORT USSB

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA  
1535 SANTA BARBARA ST  
[WWW.USSB.ORG/AUCTION](http://WWW.USSB.ORG/AUCTION)

Our Annual Auction is a success because of YOUR exciting and wonderfully creative auction donations! We welcome your donations of events, parties, games, and services. Whatever you love to do can be shared in a fun and exciting way through your donation. **Accepting donations through October 9.**

*Need an idea for an auction donation? Ready to donate?*

**[WWW.USSB.ORG/AUCTION](http://WWW.USSB.ORG/AUCTION)**



# STAFFING UPDATES

## WELCOME, ROBERTA! USSB OFFICE MANAGER

### **An intro to our new Office Manager**

Please join us in welcoming our new Office Manager, Roberta Weighill, to our USSB Staff Team! We have been delighted to have Roberta join our staff team. The restructured Office Manager position is charged with front-office and administrative work, and supports our operations and finances with minor bookkeeping and record-keeping. Please find a note from Roberta below, and join us in welcoming her!

*Hello, USSB! I am your new Office Manager holding office hours Tuesday-Thursday. I am a mother to three grown men and grandmother to four girls and one boy. I have extensive office management experience primarily in bookkeeping, human resources and non-profits. In my off-time, I enjoy crafting and attending live music concerts. Please feel free to stop by for an introduction. I look forward to meeting you!*



## OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

### **A position to come...**

In June the congregation approved a 2023-2024 fiscal year budget that included the adoption of a new position; a Part Time Outreach Coordinator. This position will be charged with our communications, internal and external, as well as being the staff point of contact for Membership & Sunday morning volunteer teams. New to us is the piece of the position that holds the invitational piece - this position is specifically tasked with developing a plan to invite the broader community in with intentional and targeted invitations. We have a wonderful congregation and community here that people are yearning for - and we want to make sure we are letting them know we are here! We anticipate hiring for this position in October.

# USSB HAPPENNINGS

## WELCOMING THE STRANGER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2023, 4-6 PM IN PARISH COURTYARD



This Interfaith Educational Event is Dedicated to our REFUGEE COMMUNITY and the people who care about their well-being.

SBCares will share the ancient Jewish holiday of SUKKOT. Join us in decorating a sukkah and learning about refugees in Santa Barbara!

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED  
This event is FREE.

### CO-SPONSORED BY:

SBCares, The Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance (ISA), and the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara.



## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

### BE A USSB LEADER - A MESSAGE FROM THE USSB NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is a vital part of our Unitarian Universalist tradition. The Committee is charged with submitting a slate of candidates for participation on our UU Board of Trustees and as members of the Nominating Committee as vacancies arise and prior to our Annual Meeting which will be held next June. This responsibility is assigned to the Nominating Committee in our congregation's bylaws.

The Nominating Committee meets throughout the year to share their knowledge of the interests and talents of our congregants. After thoughtful consideration and much deliberation, it presents the Board of Trustees with a body of candidates to be considered and for the vote of the congregation.

The vote in June will be for three Board members and two Nominating Committee members. If you would like to be considered for nomination, or if you know someone you think would be a good candidate, please contact us.

In Service,  
The USSB Nominating Committee;  
Chris Shorb, Rachel Aarons, Susan DuPont,  
John Hartman, Deb Wolfe, and Onolee Zwicke

# USSB HAPPENNINGS

## FORUM ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: OUR STORIES, OUR WORDS

**NOVEMBER 7TH FROM 7-8:30 PM**

A Community Forum is planned for November: "Behavioral Health: Our Stories, Our Words." Hear personal experiences of mental health disorders and their impact on individuals, families, friends, and our community. League (and USSB). Members Cheri Runge and Joanie Jones are planning the forum which is co-sponsored by the Unitarian Society Justice and Equity Team and League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara. It will be held in-person at USSB. Open to the community. We'll have more information in our November Channel Voter. Stay tuned . . .

-Joanie Jones and Cheri Runge

## EARTHFEST CELEBRATIONS OCTOBER 8TH, 11:00 AM PARISH HALL

Earthfest Celebrations will be having its next potluck gathering in Parish Hall on Sunday, October the 8th, following the service. This is a special time to join together to celebrate and give thanks for the diversity, abundance, and resilience of our beautiful Planet Earth - an opportunity to show our gratitude for the astounding bounties and generosity that Mother Earth bestows each and every day. Bring a dish to share!

For more information or to volunteer to help, contact: James McMath, (805) 770-7630 or email at: jameslmcmath@msn.com.

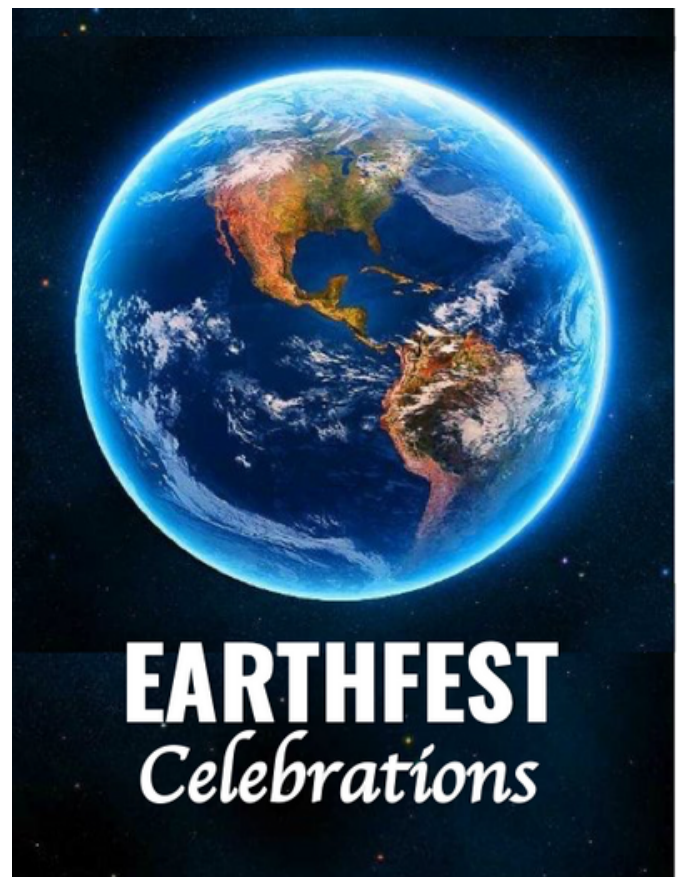
## USSB ALLIANCE

### ALLIANCE MEETING CONVERSATIONS WITH JULIA OCTOBER 6TH 2:00 PM PARISH HALL

Alliance is ready for a new year with our tradition of having Rev. Julia as the first speaker.

She will present 'Conversations With Julia'. Bring your pressing questions; the members ask her - anything goes. If you remember last year how she handled our questions-absolute success. See you Friday October 6 2:00 pm Parish Hall

-Sylvia Abualy, Chair



# USSB HAPPENNINGS

## DEEP CHANGE:

### A RETREAT AT THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA

Deep Change: Befriending the Unknown is a retreat to be held the weekend of November 10-12, 2023 at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. The retreat is open to the public. Sessions will begin early Friday evening, continue all day Saturday and conclude Sunday afternoon. Specific times are listed below.

Many of us feel the call of Deep Change in the midst of our everyday lives, more so in recent times, as new uncertainties arise. Events and experiences that shake our sense of personal identity, as well as our view of the world, can open us to the journey of Deep Change. These may include the loss of a relationship, loss of a job, change in location, retirement, and death. But also, Deep Change can begin with no apparent reason. We may feel a sense of being lost or disoriented. These feelings are often exasperated by the unraveling of our culture and society due to examples such as divisive politics, pandemic, or climate change. So, why a person finds themselves in the journey of Deep Change can be a mystery.

In this retreat, participants may realize they have a longing for greater freedom, compassion, connection, and belonging.

While Deep Change holds great promise, it can also be quite challenging. For example, at first, we may experience a sense of emptiness, meaninglessness, something missing in ourselves or in our lives.

Understanding the 7 shifts of Deep Change and their interconnectedness can help us better comprehend, navigate, and cooperate with the unseen life-giving forces of Deep Change as we discover how these shifts can transform our experience of ourselves and our world.

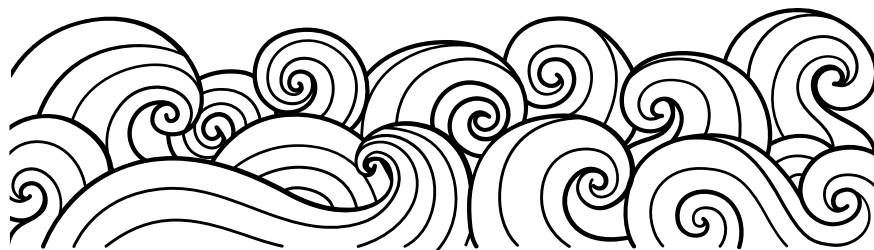
The retreat will be structured as a 'Circle of Trust' in which participants may share individually and collectively, questions and experiences. Since each person's sharing is personal and private, maintaining a "safe space" and confidentiality is paramount. Participants will come away with "footholds" and supportive practices and tools.

Registration for the retreat is \$150. (Includes materials, snacks and Saturday lunch.) Some scholarships are available. No one will be kept from this program due to finances. To register and/or for further information and questions, please contact Susan Plummer at [spplummer@gmail.com](mailto:spplummer@gmail.com) or call her private line at 805-488-2711.

#### Dates and Times

- Friday, November 10: 6-9pm
- Saturday, November 11: 9am-5pm
- Sunday, November 12: 12 noon-5pm.

The instructor/facilitator is Susan P. Plummer, MSW, Ph.D., author of Deep Change: Befriending the Unknown. She currently has a private psychological counseling and consultation practice in the Santa Ynez Valley, and has been a member of USSB since 2009.







# EARTH ADVOCATES CORNER

## BENEFITS OF OWNING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE

Transportation is responsible for more than half of all of California's carbon emissions, 80 percent of smog-forming pollution, and 95 percent of toxic diesel emissions. Driving an electric vehicle is the single largest thing most individuals can do to protect their communities from air pollution and climate change. Driving an electric vehicle can cut greenhouse gas emissions by a whopping 75% per mile!

Many EVs can initially cost more than gas-powered vehicles but lower fueling and maintenance costs and large tax incentives and rebates from federal and state agencies and public utilities can make EVs cheaper to own over the long run.

Consider the lower fueling costs enjoyed by EV drivers - charging at home overnight is like paying \$1.50/gallon, and the savings are even greater if you are generating solar power at home! Even without solar power, driving an EV can easily save the average driver \$1000 or more per year because they commonly get the equivalent of more than 100 miles to the gallon. EVs also have fewer parts than gas-powered cars so there are fewer things to go wrong.

Consumer Reports estimates that owning an electric vehicle can result in an average savings of \$4600 just in maintenance and repairs over the life of the vehicle compared to a gas-powered vehicle. And that figure doesn't even include the substantial savings in fuel costs that EV drivers enjoy.

Incentives to purchase EVs go a long way towards making EVs the cost-effective choice of many. Federal tax credits for buying or leasing qualified plug-in EVs include up to \$7500 for new vehicles and up to \$4000 for used vehicles.

California offers several programs to incentivize EV purchases, although the amount depends on income level, among other factors. SCE and PG&E also offer substantial rebates, and the purchase of a home charging unit can be offset by a \$1000 federal tax credit. Finally, EVs are powerful, quiet and offer great acceleration-they are fun to drive!

To learn more, go to [cecsb.org/events](http://cecsb.org/events). See also [climateresilientsbc.org](http://climateresilientsbc.org) and click on "Shift Your Ride".





UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF SANTA BARBARA

# ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES (SOUP'S ON!)

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

6 – 8 pm

Parish Hall

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara  
1535 Santa Barbara St.

At 6 pm we'll gather for a brief introduction to "The Story of Stuff," enjoy an organic vegetarian soup-meal-in-one, and watch "The Story of CHANGE."

The United States is the richest country on the planet and a country in which the richest among us are doing exceptionally well. Yet, our country produces more pollution, greenhouse gasses and garbage than any other country in the world. REcycle? YES! REuse? YES! "The Story of CHANGE" helps us to also understand what's ultimately critical and how each of us can help to REduce our own carbon footprint.

REduce? YES! So, please bring a *water bottle, bowl and spoon*. Families Welcome.  
\$10 donation suggested, children \$5

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CORNER

## NEXT STEPS ....

Thank you for participating in our Next Steps Weekend visit with our capital campaign consultant, Rachel Maxwell!

It was an action-packed weekend here at USSB! Rachel met with your Board of Trustees, Staff, and various lay leaders across groups of the congregation to hear about our boldest hopes and dreams for the Unitarian Society and get a sense of our financial position, culture, and opportunities for growth.



From these small group meetings, our consultant gauged our readiness for a Capital Campaign and shared a presentation on her findings Sunday after service (spoiler alert: we're ready!). You can find a recording of that presentation at [www.ussb.org/capitalcampaign](http://www.ussb.org/capitalcampaign)

### HERE ARE THE TAKEAWAYS:

- We are financially sound; we have dynamic income streams and are on solid footing.
- We have a healthy congregation; we are engaged.
- We are enthusiastic about our future and see opportunities for improvement.
- We are ready for a capital campaign!

If you were unable to attend one of the small group meetings with Rachel, there will be an opportunity to do so on Zoom later in October. Please let Erin Wilson know if you are interested: [erin@ussb.org](mailto:erin@ussb.org)

### SOME NEXT (NEXT) STEPS...

- Rachel will be sharing a more comprehensive Next Steps written report with our congregation in the coming weeks, which will be shared broadly once it is ready.
- We are developing a capital campaign visioning process for this fall. Please keep an eye on your inbox for details about that process and how you can participate and dream along with us! Full congregational participation in the visioning process will allow us to move forward with plans that articulate our true vision.

In addition, if you would like to listen to Rev. Julia's wonderful 'Remembering the Future' sermon from the weekend, where she shares her thoughts on our building for the future, please visit [www.ussb.org/sermonarchives](http://www.ussb.org/sermonarchives)



# OCTOBER OUTREACH OFFERING

## IMMIGRANT LEGAL DEFENSE CENTER



The October recipient for our Outreach Offering, celebrating Immigration Justice, is the Immigrant Legal Defense Center of Santa Barbara.

ILDC's Mission is to provide equal access to justice and due process to indigent immigrants so that no one should face immigration court alone.

ILDC envisions a society where ALL people are treated equally and with dignity no matter their circumstances.

Immigrants in immigration court do not have a right to government-appointed counsel. The lack of legal representation has a profound impact on immigrants' outcomes in removal proceedings. ILDC promotes equal access to justice and due process by providing pro bono legal services to indigent immigrants in the Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties area with the following services:

- ILDC provides representation to immigrant people in detention who are seeking release through bond.
- ILDC offers legal services to asylum-seekers that may be eligible to obtain relief on humanitarian grounds, such as race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Individuals who have been persecuted or have a credible fear of persecution and are unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of their country of origin can apply for asylum protection from the U.S. government.
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) is available to unaccompanied immigrant children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned; who cannot be reunified with one or both parents; and for whom returning to their home country is not in their best interest.
- ILDC conducts Know Your Rights (KYR) presentations so that immigrants are informed of their rights should they encounter Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- ILDC hosts community clinics to screen individuals for immigration relief, assess their criminal record, and determine whether they have a final order of deportation.

At this time, other than the ILDC, no non-profit organization in Santa Barbara County is dedicated to representing immigrants in removal proceedings (bond or full defense). ... The lack of legal service providers in the Santa Barbara County area, forces detained immigrants to remain in prolonged detention without access to legal counsel, resort to the use of fraudulent immigration attorneys and "notaries," or to eventually be deported to their country of origin regardless of the merit of their case." From: Guidestar

ILDC has had an ongoing association with USSB including the Singing for Asylum fundraising concert in September 2019, the Local Heroes 2022 nomination of ILDC Executive Director Julissa Peña, as well as extremely helpful ongoing consultations on behalf of our Stockton asylum family.

ILDC is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit agency. Find out more at their website:  
<https://www.sbimmigrantdefense.org/>

## **The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara**

1535 Santa Barbara Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Office: (805) 965-4583

email: [ussb@ussb.org](mailto:ussb@ussb.org)

[www.ussb.org](http://www.ussb.org)

---

**Rev. Julia Hamilton**, Lead Minister [julia@ussb.org](mailto:julia@ussb.org)

**Erin Wilson**, Director of Administration [erin@ussb.org](mailto:erin@ussb.org)

**Charla Bregante**, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration [charla@ussb.org](mailto:charla@ussb.org)

**Christina Boardman**, Religious Education Coordinator [christina@ussb.org](mailto:christina@ussb.org)

**Janey Madlani**, Children's Religious Education Coordinator [janey@ussb.org](mailto:janey@ussb.org)

**Matthew Griset**, Music Director [matthew@ussb.org](mailto:matthew@ussb.org)

**Roberta Weighill**, Office Manager [roberta@ussb.org](mailto:roberta@ussb.org)

**Joanie Bear**, Facilities & Events Coordinator [joanie@ussb.org](mailto:joanie@ussb.org)

**Rob Brown**, Building Manager [rob@ussb.org](mailto:rob@ussb.org)

**Jon Diaz**, Sexton [jon@ussb.org](mailto:jon@ussb.org)

**Alfonso Trejos**, Media Specialist [alfonso@ussb.org](mailto:alfonso@ussb.org)

**Heather Levin**, Accompanist

**Rev. Kenneth Collier**, Minister Emeritus

---

The office is open Sunday mornings and Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Email [ussb@ussb.org](mailto:ussb@ussb.org), or call (805) 965-4583

Deadline for the November issue: Monday, October 25

Email: [kaleidoscope@ussb.org](mailto:kaleidoscope@ussb.org)



Join us Sundays at 10:00 am on Zoom or Facebook,  
or use your phone to dial in and hear the service live

Call 1-669-900-6833, and then enter meeting ID 960 0363 8223# and you will be able to listen to the service on your phone. You may call in starting at 9:55 am.

Zoom and Facebook links are sent out in the Friday email, in a special Sunday morning email, and are always available on our website, [www.ussb.org](http://www.ussb.org).

Contact our office at [ussb@ussb.org](mailto:ussb@ussb.org) if you'd like to be added to our email list.

Can't be with us when we're live Sunday morning? Every Sunday we post the video of that day's service on [www.ussb.org/worship/archive](http://www.ussb.org/worship/archive).