Reverend Carol Sampson Rudisill has been a Unitarian Universalist since childhood when her parents, Bill and Betty Sampson also beloved members here, first took her to the Pacific UU Church in Rancho Palos Verdes in southern California at just about the time the Universalists and the Unitarians were merging in the early 1960's.

Carol has moved a lot in her life, graduating from San Jose State in 1981. This brought her two passions: ongoing UUism and Paganism. She visited our congregation around that time, perhaps 1982, and met for the first time the man destined to be her husband, Jeff Rudisill who was serving as Verger here, but they didn't become close until her second stint here which started in 1989.

The second inspiration she gained at San Jose State was for Pagen Spirituality. There she took courses from the late Carol Christ, a mentor to Carol. Carol Christ taught a course called ***Gods and Goddesses***, which got Carol involved. Carol Rudisill, Carol Christ and others formed a coven called Rising Moon Coven with people of like mind, which lasted many years and even moved to Half Moon Bay where Carol had a quilt shop called Catch a Falling Star.

Meanwhile, she was attending the Palo Alto UU congregation near her father's business in Sunnyvale where she also worked. In 1987 she was a delegate to General Assembly in Atlanta. She met another pagan there who happened to be wearing a pentacle, and together they decided to hold a Solstice Ritual. About a dozen folks came, men and women, and out of that, CUUPS (The Coven of UU Pagans) was born. The group took it to the UU Association, and it became official. Carol took it to the PAUU and eventually to the UUFSCC when she moved to Aptos. Becoming an official chapter here in 1990 we met regularly around the fire pit which was located where the patio is now. Other participants were Jeff Rudisill, Margie Echeverria, Robin and Leslie Pomtag, Jenny Wood (Choate), Claire Foster and Claire's husband, Jimmy. Later members included Patt Taylor, V Langston Kingsley, Terra Collier-Young, Robin Powers, Mike Jerry and many others. In 2001, we held a Croning Ceremony in the Fellowship with V and others leading. Patt Taylor made purple stoles for all of us, one of which Jenny still has. There was a later Croning on the beach, but I know less about that. Robin was one of the leaders then. Sadly, she and Mike moved to the southern California desert, and she passed away at a tragically young age. We are still in touch with her husband Mike Jerry.

Carol fell in love with Jeff and in 1992 they were married at the Fellowship in, of course, a pagan ceremony. Woody Wood was Jeff's best man. The only sad part was that Jeff had to take the growing family to southern California for work, and they left the area. Carol herself was called to ministry. She attended Starr King from 1996 to 2000 where there were only three pagans, but they held chapel services together. After graduation she worked until 2012 at various churches both in interim and settled ministries. She taught the UU Pagan Curriculum in at least three different churches. Carol retired in 2012 and moved back here in 2014 after their two sons had grown up, married and pursued their careers. Justin, who came with Carol to the Fellowship, lives in San Francisco and is a software engineer. Liam, who spent less time here, is in Oakland doing technical work in the theater, also an interest of Carol's who used to act. It is a joy to know Carol and Jeff, so key to the recent history of the UUFSCC, are part of the church again and can contribute so much to this history project.