10th Anniversary Special Memories from UUCC's 10 Year History
July 6, 2025 Service

Act I: In the Beginning

Diana Luykx:
Just a couple of my favorite memories include going to the lovely home of the lady who lived in Ocean Colony and made delicious baked goods [her bathroom was as big as my whole apartment]—and the African American woman with her father and adorable baby from those same days.

Nancy Palmer:
The first was a service led by Storm in the New Leaf Classroom, shortly after the first Trump election, I think. The topic was our first principle: "The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person." We were seated in a circle, and after the opening, Storm walked around, showing each of us a picture of President-Elect Donald Trump, smiling from ear-to-ear.

Act II: Turning Over a New Leaf

David Ruettiger: I started attending UU Coastside services during the time when we were meeting in the New Leaf classroom. I was very excited to hear of UU services on the coast. I was amazed that a small group of dedicated people could pull this off, and I knew I wanted to be involved. Going to these services helped me realize church is not a building; it's people interacting & supporting each other.

Diana Luykx:
I remember taking a photo of Ben and his daughter on one of our previous anniversaries in the New Leaf classroom. I remember sitting outside the New Leaf Classroom in the chilly spring of the pandemic and listening to Mo Robison.

Dianne Baker:
In early summer of 2019, we gathered in the New Leaf classroom to hear Lynn Ewing from UUSM preach a sermon entitled "It Matters What You Believe." As I remember, it was a packed house with quite a few people making the trip over the hill to the Coast to hear Lynn's words along with the UU Coastside Community. Lynn's sermon was well organized with beautiful use of language. I remember being glued to every word and thinking, "this is why I come to UU Services." Along with lovely music, it could not have been better!
Lynn worked hard on her beautifully crafted sermon, and I remember being spiritually moved. Sadly, a few weeks later, Lynn died unexpectedly of natural causes, leaving her family, friends, and UU community deeply bereaved.

Joanne Rokosky:
It was a bright, sunny morning, and the classroom at New Leaf was buzzing with the largest crowd in our young UUCC history. The radiant center of this joyous gathering was a children's a cappella choir. The happy UUCC regular Sunday attendees were greatly outnumbered by the choir members and their parents, siblings, and grandparents. I was inspired by the spirited singing and by the friendly interaction with the broader religious community.

Laurel Frishman:
I have many UUCC moments, but when I think of the past years, what usually comes to mind first are the services we had at the New Leaf community room. There was something really special about that time, very intimate and well attended. I especially remember Krista Enos' Junior A Cappella Ensemble and the other varied musical folks who joined us each service.

Bill Heavlin:
In December of 2019, I led a service on empathy. It consisted of three reflections: by me, by Noreen, and a poem read by LindaGrace. Krista Enos' A Capella Ensemble (ACE) performed. When I introduced their last number, I ad-libbed that singing a cappella trains its singers to empathy. For the 45 people in the room, this alignment of the theme, empathy, with the big draw, ACE, felt electric!

Act III: Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Bill Heavlin:
Relatively early in the pandemic, in August 2020, we had a joint service with outgoing Mission Peak minister Jo Green speaking. Near the end, our power on the Coastside went out, and the UUSM attendees lost internet. But Jo Green and her followers from the East Bay stayed on. One by one, she unmuted them, and the Zoom cloud recording caught their conversation. (Jo Green: "I'm now the Zoom host, and it's not even my congregation!")

Verna Barrientos:
A memory I have is the feeling of connection via Zoom that UUCC gave during the worst of the pandemic in 2020. At that point I was in a very stressful job, I felt anxious all the time, and I felt isolated. Feeling the warm virtual welcome from UUCC via Zoom was a lifeline that I will always be grateful for.

Sending gratitude to UUCC overall and well-wishes for another 10+ years to come.

Bill Heavlin:
Verna did the June 2023 Pride service. Bruce has previously filmed the (first?) Half Moon Bay Pride Parade for CoastPride. I added some titles and the Heather Small soundtrack, Pride. This video became the service interlude. All in all, a nice weaving of efforts.

Bill Heavlin:
We had two significant December fundraisers during the Pandemic, in 2020 and in 2021, for Coastside Adult Day Health Center and for Senior Coastsiders, respectively. The views for the resulting YouTube uploads set new records for us. The December 2021 video had multiple elements contributed by the UU Community of Lake County, and there remain to this day multiple bonds between us and UUCLC.

Act IV: Odd and Curious

Joanne Rokosky:
As is probably no surprise, my most memorable moments have been when the speaker spoke passionately about social justice issues. There are probably more, but these are particularly strong recollections: Tovis Page speaking about her experience traveling the paths of migrants struggling in the desert as they tried to reach the United States, Eric Debode explaining his life mission to walk alongside the homeless population, Ronnie Boyd identifying the realities of housing insecurity that impact so many low-income neighbors, and Esther Wallace advocating for hope as a choice rather than a feeling.

Nancy Palmer:
The next (favorite memory) was a service shortly after I complained about the clanging quality of the meditation bowl that we were using at that time in some of our early services in Odd Fellows Hall. A young woman was leading the service. When she hit the bowl, it went Boiiiing! Then silence. Real silence. One man, one of our first people, was sitting to one side in front of me, looking down, and his shoulders were shaking very hard. He managed to keep the laughter inside.

Carlean Gharpurey:
The Christmas service that Regina read the story she had written after the war, her mother riding a bike to the forest to collect evergreen boughs to make Advent wreaths, and when Shauna played Spirit of Life.

Judy Easter:
My two favorite services were the rabbi who talked about ways to lead a meaningful and ethical life and Bill's sermon at the Flower Ceremony service. The point that stood out most for me was that what some may view as weeds has beauty, meaning, and purpose. There is much beauty and goodness in this world if we take the time to open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds. Both of these services reinforce my basic belief that the most important premise is to treat others as we would like to be treated, with love, dignity, and respect.

Regina Wiegand:
Many fond memories manifest when I consider my association with UUCC in HMB. I will never forget the unusual and inviting meetings at our New Leaf location. I felt included and connected

to all—especially the speakers. Perhaps it was the intimate space—there was a great deal of conversation among all present. Though I do miss that location, I appreciate what we have now. I especially appreciate the dedicated musicians, the speakers who always leave an aspect of themselves in their presentations, and the caring attitude of many of our members. I am grateful for the endless work Noreen and Bill dedicate to make our meetings successful.

I am particularly grateful for the special small meetings: the meetings following Sunday's presentations, Deeper Conversations, and the Pacifica meeting. It is difficult to summarize specific events. I am grateful for all that is so selflessly given by all members of our group. Thank you.

Gary Barbato:
We live in difficult, unexplainably crazy times...which can frequently be hard to endure on our own...we all need help. The problems can be from within... (mental or physical health, family or financial issues) or from the outside... politically or environmentally imposed. The problems can be like walls that are put in our way that sap us of our energy, enthusiasm, faith, hope, and positivity...and prevent us from moving forward with our own happiness and health. Then, these walls can also restrict us from helping others find theirs.

For me, the UUCC...the wonderful services, interesting discussion groups, beautiful music...but most importantly...its members...offers and has given me...and probably many others...refuge, calm, and respite from life's predictably difficult craziness. It is wonderful to be with like-minded people who feel the same way about many things...and are usually ready to listen, discuss, empathize, and help guide us to better, healthier lives...and a better world...even though it may take some work and sacrifice.

What really stands out for me about UUCC activities is that I always feel uplifted...energized...and hopeful about the future...both mine and the world's. Not only while participating...but afterwards, helping me back to a healthy "way forward" during daily life...that we can so easily lose track of. I think of UUCC members as friends that I can comfortably share with. I know that I can rely on a sympathetic ear if I have issues that I just want to talk about...get off my chest. Even if we don't agree on everything, it is great to be able to share. I am very thankful for being accepted into the UU Coastside Community!

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to share, Noreen...

Bill Heavlin:
For September 2023, Tom volunteered a service about beauty and keyed on Maggie Smith’s poem “Good Bones.” The service was very well attended, pulling in many new faces. I felt like we’d learned there was a hunger to talk more about beauty, and Tom did it from a moral point of view.

Bill Heavlin:
On the first Sunday of February 2023, Noreen gave an important service, “A Thing or Two About Resilience.” Diedrik and Kaj Edholm performed for the first time. They played “Ave Maria.” I felt like we had discovered Diedrik and that he had discovered us. While manifesting a thing or two about resilience.

Bill Heavlin:
On the first Sunday of June 2022, the service had four memorable elements: (a) It was UUCC’s grand opening at Odd Fellows Hall, (b) it was our flower communion, (c) we presented Esther with a stole (she’d recently graduated from Starr King), and (d) Esther spoke on “Hope Is A Discipline.” This latter message was so powerful that some of us kept alluding to this title—Hope Is A Discipline—over the next few months. Alas or otherwise, it remains relevant today more than ever.

Noreen Cooper Heavlin
Choosing a single moment that stands out above the rest is nearly impossible for me because UUCC services have had so many peak experiences. If I had to pick, though, it would have been during a service at Odd Fellows Hall, where Diedrik and Vera were at their best, the sermon was inspiring, and the venue was more church-like than other locations where we had met. Suddenly, I knew that my dream from nine years ago had finally materialized. I felt that there was something greater than myself present in the room at that moment, so for me it was a spiritual moment.