

Sabbatical Guide  
June 12, 2023 – January 6, 2024



Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto  
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Palo Alto, CA 94306  
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E-mail: [uucpa@uucpa.org](mailto:uucpa@uucpa.org)  
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## A message from Amy

Dear UUCPA folks,

I am so grateful for your wisdom and generosity in offering sabbatical to your ministers. I have had two previous such opportunities to grow my spirit, in 2010 and 2016. They helped make me a more soulful preacher, a braver social justice leader, and a more present pastor.

My family and I spent both of those sabbaticals living in Mexico. This time, with our daughter a junior in high school, we don't want to uproot her, so after a lovely long stretch of her summer vacation spent traveling in Europe, we'll be at home. I plan to do a lot of art, read tons and write some, and continue the D.Min. program at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities that I began last fall (this fall's course: The Arts as Leadership. Doesn't that sound great?).

I know from experience that I will miss you very much, *and* that the time will fly. And that we will have a lot to tell each other about what we have learned during these almost-seven months. (Some vacation and study leave are tacked on either end of the six months of sabbatical.)

We have been through so much in the past few years, and emerged strengthened by love and commitment. With the fine leadership you have in our Minister of Religious Education, Cat Boyle; our Sabbatical Minister, Peter Farriday; all of the staff, who are so capable and devoted; Board President Buzz Frahn; Acting Head of Staff Castor Fu; and all of you who contribute in countless ways, including by your presence; I know you will thrive.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amy', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rev. Amy Zucker Morgenstern, Parish Minister

## Meet our sabbatical minister

Greetings and SalUUtations!

I'm so pleased to begin my time as UUCPA's Sabbatical Minister! I'm grateful to Rev. Amy and the sabbatical search team for their confidence in me, and very much lookforward to getting to know many of you as our time together unfolds. For the moment, however, I'd like to offer some very brief introductory background on myself.

I grew up in St. Paul, MN, third in a family of four boys. My college educator parents moonlighted as musicians in a liberal Lutheran church in Minneapolis, and though the theology never took I still appreciate the community this provided. With dad the choir director and mom the accompanist/organist I also appreciated music early, and it remains one of my staple soul-foods. I've also been steadily active in sports and the outdoors.



After college I left the Twin Cities to attend a graduate program in Oakland, CA, led by innovative spiritual thinker/teacher Matthew Fox, with whom some of you may be familiar. That experience profoundly expanded my cultural and spiritual perspectives, which moved me to do further grad work in mass media at San Francisco State.

For some years I worked in various facets of the media field, which included moves to Washington D.C. and Los Angeles. In LA I got married (later amicably divorced) and became a dad to a terrific daughter (now 23) and son (20), the latter of whom is now a junior at Cal. (Apologies to any Big Game Cardinal fans.) But workwise I eventually decided to switch gears.

This ultimately led me to attend UU seminary, and upon graduating in 2014 I became the contract minister of the Santa Clarita Valley UUs in northern LA County. I subsequently served the Humboldt UU Fellowship in far northern California from 2021-22 as a contract minister, then as Interim minister in Duluth, MN this past year.

While being back in my home state has been good, at least for now I wanted to return to a major California metropolis. So I was delighted when UUCPA appeared on the radar!

There's obviously more to share, and I'll do so during some of my early worship services with you (where you'll also hear much more about my spiritual perspectives!), and in other ways. Yet I hope this brief overview provides an initial personal sense of me.

Again I look forward to getting acquainted, to doing some good work together, and enjoying lots of fun and laughter along the way.

Many Blessings,

Rev. Peter Farriday

## **Why a sabbatical?**

The sabbatical leave is a tradition in Unitarian Universalist congregations, as it is for universities, and even in many Silicon Valley high tech corporations. It recognizes that effective ministry requires occasional extended periods for study, reflection, rest, and renewal. A paid sabbatical leave is part of our congregation's covenant agreement with our ministers.

We trust that our own ministry to one another, already strong, will flourish during this time under our sabbatical minister's leadership, while our horizons will be broadened by a rich array of speakers from outside and within our congregation. Just as importantly, the congregation will benefit by Amy's returning with renewed energy, ideas, and depth.

## **How will we stay in touch with Amy?**

The sabbatical is a time for a minister to have a complete break from her ministerial duties. The ministers, staff, and lay leadership of the congregation are prepared to deal with all the usual matters of congregational life, including emergencies.

Therefore, only the president, the ministers, and the church administrator will have emergency contact information for Amy, and it will be used only in extreme cases. Also, because it would be impossible to catch up with several months' accumulation of correspondence, Amy's e-mail delivery will be shut down during her absence. If you have a report that she will need to see upon her return, she asks you to keep it on hand and share it with her during a post-sabbatical debriefing time.

## Pastoral Care & Rites of Passage

We are fortunate to have Peter to take charge of pastoral care during Amy's sabbatical. In this vital part of our ministry, he will have the support of Rev. Cat and the lay pastoral caregivers of our Caring Network: Cathy Gale, Esa Jacobi, Mary Grebenkemper, Nancy Jensen, and Sara Newcomb. The By Your Side Singers, memorial reception providers, organizers of the Baby Café and Get Better Bistro, office staff Jeff Cashdollar and the many others who assist with our pastoral needs will continue to do so, in coordination with Peter. If you or someone you know needs a visit or concrete support, please email [caring@uucpa.org](mailto:caring@uucpa.org) or contact Peter at (650) 494-0541 x26 or [sabbaticalminister@uucpa.org](mailto:sabbaticalminister@uucpa.org).

Peter will officiate at memorial services of UUCPA members and give counsel and comfort to grieving families. He or Cat will lead the dedications of children as requested. For weddings and non-member memorials, speak to either one.

## For Pastoral Emergencies

### **You may be having a pastoral emergency if:**

You or someone in your immediate family is arrested.

You or someone in your immediate family is rushed to the hospital.

You or someone in your immediate family is a victim of violence.

You are overwhelmed with despair.

If such a situation arises, we are here for you without delay. As always, if there is a safety or health emergency, call 911 first. Then call the church phone (650) 494-0541 x25. This will automatically forward to Revs. Peter or Cat, who share coverage of this emergency line.

## Whom do I call with questions, concerns, or suggestions?

**Congregational Administrator Jeff Cashdollar** can answer most questions about church functioning, and the best way to reach him is via phone or email: (650) 494-0541 x22 / [uucpa@uucpa.org](mailto:uucpa@uucpa.org). The **UUCPA Office** is open on Sundays 9-1, and usually open 9 - 2 Monday-Thursday (make an appointment if you want to be sure to find Jeff there). For the directory, please use Realm, the online database, [onrealm.org/uucpa](http://onrealm.org/uucpa). If you haven't signed up for an account yet, Jeff can get you connected.

The **Board of Trustees** ([board@uucpa.org](mailto:board@uucpa.org)) and the **Committee on Ministry** ([com@uucpa.org](mailto:com@uucpa.org)) are always interested in hearing from you.

**Castor Fu** ([castorfu@uucpa.org](mailto:castorfu@uucpa.org)) is **Acting Head of Staff** during Amy's absence; contact him with any staff concerns that you would bring to Amy.

The **Sabbatical Committee** ([sabbatical@uucpa.org](mailto:sabbatical@uucpa.org)), along with Amy, hired Peter. Now that he is coming aboard, please contact them with any comments, questions or concerns regarding UUCPA's arrangements to continue being a strong and supportive community during this sabbatical. They are Marianne Neuwirth, Board member Kevin Crane, and Committee on Ministry member Randy Helmonds.

## Sunday Services

Sunday services will be led by our sabbatical minister, the Rev. Peter Farriday, twice a month, and by other ministers, community leaders, and UUCPA members on other dates. The services below are on Sunday at 10:15 a.m. unless noted otherwise. Topics are subject to change.

<b>June 18</b>	Who Owns the World?	Doug Muder
<b>June 25</b>	History, Retold	DL Helfer
<b>July 2</b>	Grace Notes	Rev. Dr. Jeanne Foster
<b>July 9</b>	Moral Beauty and the Shape of Justice	Rev. Dr. Jay Atkinson
<b>July 16</b>	Because Every Body Is Sacred	Rev. Ashley Horan
<b>July 23</b>	I Didn't Mean To...	Rev. Millie Phillips
	Navigating the Minefield of Impact and Intent	
<b>July 30</b>		Rev. Peter Farriday
<b>August 6</b>	Say What?: The Power of Language	Zr. Alex Kapitan
<b>August 13</b>		Rev. Peter Farriday
<b>August 20</b>	Gathering In the Waters	Revs. Peter and Cat
<b>August 27</b>	What Service Dogs Have to Teach Us	Thida Cornes
<b>September 3</b>		Rev. Nancy Palmer Jones
<b>September 10</b>		Rev. Peter Farriday
<b>September 17</b>	Driving While White	Tom Parker
<b>September 24</b>		Rev. Peter Farriday
<b>October 1</b>		Rev. Cat Boyle
<b>October 8</b>		Rev. Peter Farriday
<b>October 15</b>	Lessons for Future Ancestors	Matt Meyer
<b>October 22</b>		Rev. Peter Farriday
<b>October 29</b>		Rev. Peter Farriday
<b>November 5</b>		Rev. Deborah Lee, IM4HI
<b>November 12</b>		Rev. Peter Farriday
<b>November 19</b>	Thanksgiving Service	Revs. Peter and Cat
<b>November 26</b>	Poetry Speaks to Us	Richard Heydt & friends
<b>December 3</b>	Overcoming Overwhelming Odds	John Wright
<b>December 10</b>		Rev. Peter Farriday
<b>December 17</b>		Peter Farriday & Cat Boyle
<b>December 24, 10:15 am</b>		TBD
<b>December 24, 6:30 &amp; 8 pm</b>	Christmas Eve	Peter Farriday & Cat Boyle
<b>December 31</b>		Rev. Alex da Silva Souto
<b>January 7</b>		Rev. Amy Morgenstern
<b>January 14</b>		Julie Lythcott-Haims





## At-a-Glance

**Dates of Leave** of Parish Minister Amy Zucker Morgenstern: **June 12, 2023 – January 6, 2024.** Amy is taking some of her annual study time and vacation adjacent to her six months of sabbatical.

**Sabbatical Minister July 17 – December 31 (half time),** Rev. Peter Farriday, [sabbaticalminister@uucpa.org](mailto:sabbaticalminister@uucpa.org), (650) 494-0541 x26

**Minister of Religious Education,** Rev. Catherine Boyle, [revcat@uucpa.org](mailto:revcat@uucpa.org), (650) 494-0541 x28

**UUCPA Board of Trustees,** [board@uucpa.org](mailto:board@uucpa.org). Each has a portfolio:

Buzz Frahn, President, [president@uucpa.org](mailto:president@uucpa.org)

Barbara Smith-Thomas, Staff Relations

Heather Chen, Communications

Jeralyn Moran, Social Justice

Kevin Crane, VP for Finance

Kevin Ma, Secretary

Lisa Helmonds, Membership

Mayo Tsuzuki, Denominational Concerns

Mo Jebian, Children & Youth Religious Education

Paula Hillard, Adult Religious Education

***Ex officio:***

Kay Brown, Congregational Treasurer

Rev. Peter Farriday, Sabbatical Minister

Rev. Catherine Boyle, Assistant Minister of Religious Education

**Committee on Ministry,** [com@uucpa.org](mailto:com@uucpa.org): Greg Brail (chair), Jennifer Wang, Randy Helmonds

**Sabbatical Committee,** [sabbatical@uucpa.org](mailto:sabbatical@uucpa.org): Kevin Crane, Marianne Neuwirth, Randy Helmonds (chair)