

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

May 2024

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are at 10:30 AM in person and via Zoom. *If you've been exposed to Covid, RSV, the flu, or are just not feeling well, please attend online.*

TO JOIN THE ZOOM SERVICE AT 10:30 AM ON SUNDAYS:

Online via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/746107217>

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

Audio by phone: Dial in: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

... See Page 15 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

MAY THEME: *The Gift of Pluralism*

May 5 *In and Out of Our Minds*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa
with Randy McKean, Worship Associate

Our year-long look into aspects of our personalities is meant, in part, to strengthen our ability to live the pluralism our tradition claims as important. We begin this month's pluralism theme with a dive into Fiveness. The head-centered "Investigator" is the part of us that wants to find out why things are the way they are and to understand how the world works – always searching, asking questions, and testing truth for ourselves. Sounds like many a Unitarian Universalist.

May 12 *You Bring An Aster*

Sophia McKean and Cheryl Morris, Worship Team

"You bring an aster, I'll bring a rose" -- here's an invitation to bring a flower to celebrate our annual tradition of the Flower Ceremony! On the anniversary of the Unitarian Universalist Association's founding, we'll celebrate our pluralist tradition's roots in a vision of a community that honors each of us, as varied as all the flowers of spring. We'll reflect, too, on the anti-war principles seeded into both the history of the Flower Ceremony in our tradition and the founding of Mother's Day. – *Please bring a flower from your yard, garden, or somewhere else out in the world from which flowers can, in good conscience, be taken.*

May 19 *Peace, Harmony, and the Snooze Button*

Rev. Kevin, with Lindsay Dunckel, Worship Associate

Our final Enneagram type, the Nine, the Peacemaker, is the part of us that is driven to seek inner and outer peace for ourselves and

others. This is also the part of us that embodies the fundamental challenge of all spiritual or inner work – being awake rather than asleep to our true nature. Whew. Sounds exhausting. At least to a Nine. Maybe I'll sleep just a little bit longer.

May 26 *Questions, Questions, Questions!* (a Question Box service)

Rev. Kevin and all,
with Carol Nimick, Worship Associate

There is a tradition of sorts in many Unitarian Universalist congregations – a Question Box service or sermon in which people submit written questions for the minister to answer in the moment. On this final "pluralism" focused Sunday, come, with your questions about, well, about pretty much anything! That's the fun. Rev. Kevin will answer as many questions as time and his abilities allow, and he won't hesitate to seek help in answering. Very likely, the questions will be as interesting and revealing as any answers.

▶ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ◀

Item	Page
Upcoming Services.....	1
From the Minister.....	2
Corps Values Exploration Opportunities.....	3
Board of Trustees.....	4
Words from the Worship Team.....	5
New! Joys & Sorrows Contemplative Service.....	5
Stewarding Guidance Group.....	6
Endowment.....	6
Membership.....	7
Art & Aesthetics.....	8
Parish & Lay Pastoral Care Teams.....	9
Building & Grounds Team.....	9
Feature: Sermon School.....	10
Upcoming Events: Concert and Crafts Faire.....	10
Justice News and Activities.....	11-12
Second Sunday Book Group.....	12
Community Connections.....	13-14
UUCM Family Ministry.....	15
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours.....	16



Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Pluralism, our theme for May, is not a word that rises often in everyday conversation. Well, that is not unless your religious institution is proposing to name pluralism as a central and demanding value:

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

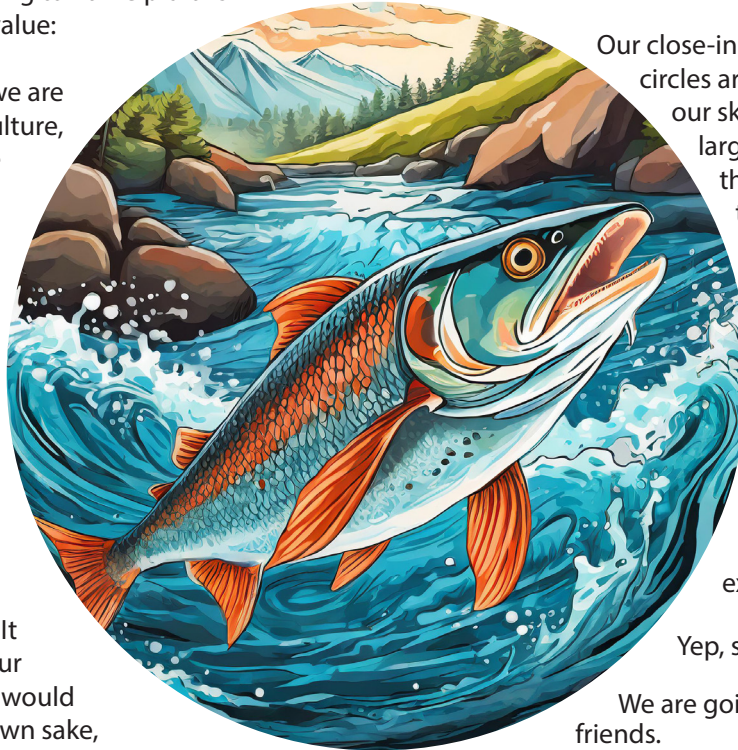
We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

For me, pluralism is one of the most important and powerful values for our time, this in-between, inter-tidal, transition zone for humanity. It is an aspirational value that our tradition over time realized it would need to embody, first for its own sake, because of the differences among its very own people. It is a value we've since sought to extend into our communities, nations and world, requiring us to swim upstream against both our personal impulses to prioritize familiarity and sameness, and our national and cultural fears, currently being so actively stoked, which look to rigid boundaries and a severe division of us/them for some sense of security.

If we could live into one core value deeply, especially as it is expressed above, I suggest that pluralism ought to be it. So many of the other values follow.

The outer edges of every religious tradition get this. Sufi teacher Hazrat Inayat Khan once explained that to speak of a Sufi mystic or a Christian mystic or a Jewish mystic is to miss the truth entirely. Once one reaches the transcendent place of mysticism, all such distinctions fall away, he taught. One is simply a mystic.

Most of us navigate the world somewhere between fearful xenophobia and Khan's expansive conception of boundaryless mysticism, and oh, the opportunities for personal and spiritual growth are everywhere these days. The invitations to "embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, and respect" arise daily, and not least, among ourselves.



Our close-in UU and friend and family circles are where we practice, honing our skills and our capacity for the larger outward-facing work. Work that asks us what we are going to do to address suffering in Gaza as well as antisemitism, how we're going to support trans youth and persons of color while embracing our radically rigid neighbor, how we are going to survive, maybe even thrive together, while not being of like mind, or perspective, or body, or neuro-chemistry, or life experience.

Yep, swimming upstream.

We are going to need each other, my friends.

We are going to need each other.

With care,

- Rev. Kevin

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Kevin's office hours are usually held
Tuesday through Thursday afternoons.



Email Admin@uugrassvalley.org
or call the office at (530) 274-1675
to schedule an appointment

Opportunities to Explore Our Corps Values

It Matters: Dive into and Weigh our Corps Values

Members of our Unitarian Universalist Association, including three delegates from UUCM and Rev. Kevin, will vote on whether or not to adapt and adopt a new shared expression of UU values, a revision of the "Seven Principles." We invite and ask you to engage this conversation about UU Values in one of the ways below that works well for you, in the process making connections and informing our UUCM delegates as they prepare to vote on your behalf.

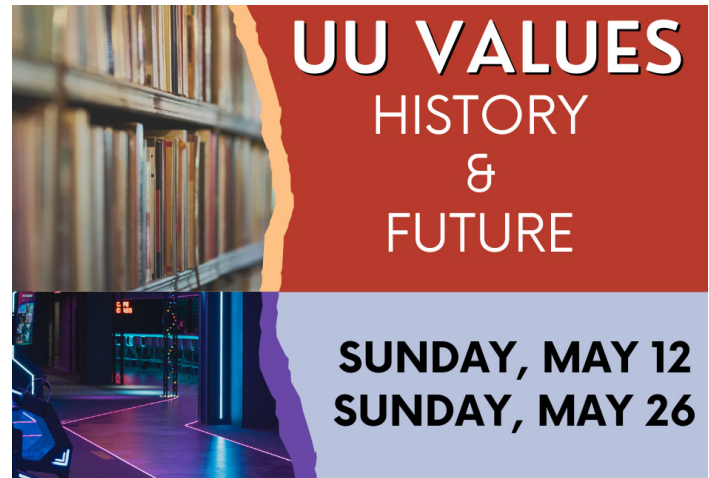
Here are a range of options. Your signing up in advance will help us plan for numbers and to know that we have critical mass for a given gathering:

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 9:30 AM TO NOON - WALK/REFLECT/TALK HIKE

Join in a Walk/Reflect/Talk Hike with Rev. Kevin at Cascade Canal Trail (@Gracie Road and Banner Lava Cap Road) <https://www.bylt.org/trail/cascade-canal-trail/> with optional BYO tailgate lunch afterward. We'll read the various values aloud a couple at a time, and then reflect on those particular values as we walk in woodland-graced silence or walk and talk with partners (your choice). Periodically, we'll gather and pause to share what's come up for us before we read the next values and continue on, gradually returning to our start and drawing the threads together. Bring a chair and your post-hike lunch, if you wish, for community time at the end. Carpooling encouraged.

Meet at UUCM by 9:00 AM to carpool.

Contact Rev. Kevin: minister@uugrassvalley.org



SUNDAY, MAY 12 AND SUNDAY MAY 26, NOON-ISH TO 2:00 PM

Are you into history and structure? And (vegan) soup? Join Keith Johnson and Rev. Kevin for either or both of two sessions.

Session 1 on May 12 will explore the history of the current UUA Principles, including changes made over the decades, as well as proposed changes that were rejected.

In Session 2 on May 26, we'll look at how the proposed new language, values, and framing align with the current UUA articulation of our Principles and Sources.

Plus, of course, we'll want to know what you think.

On-site at UUCM and on Zoom. (*The soup cannot be Zoomed, we're sorry to report.*)

Contact Rev. Kevin: minister@uugrassvalley.org

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 9:00 AM -1:00 PM HALF-DAY UU VALUES RETREAT AT UUCM

With the help of Rev. Dr. Sheri Prud'homme's rich written Theological Reflection on Article II, dive into the Unitarian and Universalist theologies that run underneath and through this proposed expression of our UU values. With the caring facilitation of Rev. Diana Gibson and Rev. Kevin, and through a variety of spiritual practices, engage UU values informed by your own sense of what it means to be human and the deep questions that come with existence (i.e. your "theology"). To sign up, contact Rev. Kevin: minister@uugrassvalley.org

OR... THROUGHOUT MAY—

Find the resources that work for you. Watch the eChalice for weekly resources for exploring the proposed Article II expressions of our UU Values, and at the end of the month, weigh in on whether "we" ought to vote yes or no to the Article II changes.

Board of Trustees



*Pam Kisor, Acting President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*
President@uugrassvalley.org

Last fall the Board formed a small committee to conduct several “Open Questions” sessions in order to gain insight into what the congregants of UUCM are thinking and feeling about UUCM, its place in their lives, and its place in the wider community. The Open Questions conversations took place in person, on Zoom and during meetings of various groups. All congregants had an opportunity to take part in the sessions. The Board uses the Open Questions process to inform our strategic planning and goal development. This process is always interesting and provides insights into our community. I am sharing a summary of the responses to the Open Questions here. I hope you find it interesting and helpful.

Each group warmed up with the question “What does Beloved Community mean to you?” and then addressed three questions on which copious notes were taken:

- Who do we want to be for one another?
- Who do we want to be for the wider community?
- What are next steps that could help us get there?

Some broad themes emerged across the groups, including:

- A need for belonging and connection, particularly as provided through small group opportunities
- The importance of being truly welcoming (many more details on this below)
- The value of trust, respect, authenticity, and personal growth
- The power of centering love in all we do
- The desire to be visible and known in the community, including as an entity dedicated to the greater good that shows up and acts in support of marginalized communities
- The need to offer both spiritual sanctuary and opportunities to engage in justice work and the importance of communicating that the two are not mutually exclusive but, in fact, support one another (and the importance of communicating that people do not have to engage in everything offered at UUCM)
- A desire to continue to work on multiculturalism – including working toward being comfortable with discomfort and summoning curiosity as our first response

- A need to figure out and acknowledge differing viewpoints and to welcome minority views questioning how we “have always done things”
- A desire to support young people
- A desire to support the LGBTQ+ community
- A need to explore alternative worship-type opportunities to those on Sunday mornings in order to meet needs of people we are not currently serving (and alternative needs of those we are currently serving)
- A need to cultivate engagement at all levels, to grow volunteerism, and to steward our human resources (both staff and volunteer)
- A need to take a hard look at our culture of conflict-avoidance which gets in the way of open and honest conversation and growth (which seems to grow out of a misguided desire to be kind).
- I would like to thank the Open Questions Committee for the many hours spent planning the work, conducting the sessions, and compiling this report. The Open Question Committee members are Kathryn Young, René Wiley, Corrie Silva, Lindsay Dunckel, Taylor Carey, and me :-).

The full report is available on our website and can be accessed by the following link: <https://www.uugrassvalley.org/?p=38661>

Namaste,

Pam

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

Pam Kisor	Acting <i>President</i>
Gail Schultz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Janet Dunstan	<i>Secretary</i>

Members at Large:

Chuck Champlin, Jeff Gold & Lisa Haden

Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month.

If you wish to address the board, please give at least two days notice so the agenda timing can be adjusted.



Words from the Worship Team

Cheryl Morris and Carol Nimick
Worship Team Co-Leaders
Worship@uugrassvalley.org



I've heard it said about UUCM that "every service is different." While it's true that as a team we strive to keep things interesting, creative, and non-formulaic, we hope it's apparent that there are goals and intentions that guide us as we craft services, as well as consistent elements and a monthly theme. Worship Team members have different personal styles and talents, and we try to utilize these in support of any particular service.

Our themes from September through June are drawn from the Soul Matters material, which offer rich resources for worship planning as well as for small groups and religious education. In July and August we select a different theme pretty much each year.

In general we strive to include, each month, a service with a focus on individual growth, one that addresses our UUCM community, and one devoted to justice issues. It's somewhat puzzling to us when we hear comments about "too much" or "not enough" spirituality, as well as "too much" or "not enough" justice focus. What we hope to convey through all the services is that there is not a separation between the two, that each supports the other, and that everything is interconnected. Spirituality can lead directly to social action, and justice work can be viewed as a spiritual practice.

The strength of Unitarian Universalism is its ability to form a cohesive group from people of widely varying beliefs who value independent thinking and thoughtful questioning. We know we can't please everyone! Actually, "pleasing" is not our goal. If we make you think, feel, connect with others, and grow as a person we have done our job.

We'd love to hear anything you have to say about services at UUCM. Better yet, we'd love to have you work with us to create services that are deep, meaningful, and connective. Feel free to speak with any team member or Rev. Kevin if there's anything you'd like us to know or if you'd like to be part of our dynamic and fun team.

- Cheryl & Carol

Soul Matters Themes

Final Soul Matters Themes of 2023-24

The Gift of...

May
June

Pluralism
Renewal



Special Service

Join Us for Our Evening Joys & Sorrows Contemplative Service SECOND THURSDAYS FROM 7:00-8:00 PM

Mark your calendar for this month's Joys & Sorrows Contemplative Service on **May 9, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.**

We'll sing hymns, join in meditation, and participate in a Joys and Sorrows ritual where all are welcome to share aloud with the group the joys and/or sorrows in their hearts that night. It's a simple but moving service which takes place the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.



Stewarding Guidance

A Successful Pledge Campaign!

The 2024-2025 Pledge Campaign has come to a close, and Stewarding Guidance Group is happy to report that with your generosity, UUCM has reached its goal of \$250,000 for 2024-2025.

Thank you!

Thank you for helping to reach our goal. Thank you for meeting with our valiant Visiting Stewards – we not only achieved our goal, but we contacted almost every one of you, and the spiritual rewards from those connections are invaluable. Thank you for answering the call we make each year and taking part in every way you can to make this community one you are proud to call home.

FY2024-2025 budget development is underway, and it will be presented to the community at the annual business meeting on June 2.

Here are some highlights of the campaign:

- A group of seven people came together to form the ad hoc Stewarding Guidance Group and lead the campaign with full support of the Board, Ministry, and Worship.
- Twenty-six of you from among the congregation stepped up to be Visiting Stewards, who were able to make one-on-one visits with everyone who wanted a visit.
- We came together for a community dinner for the first time in four years.
- Total pledges increased by 9% over the current year's pledges.
- Ten new families made pledges.
- Almost half of our families were able to make significant increases in their pledge.

The many activities at UUCM are thriving, energy is positive, and new people come through our doors each week – there is so much to appreciate as we approach the coming year!

For now, this is farewell from this Stewarding Guidance Group, but we will meet again this summer to review our efforts and set a course for next year's group and campaign.

With our gratitude,

Your Stewarding Guidance Group:

Lesley Champlin, Jeff Gold, Laura Harter,
Keith Johnson, Pam Kisor, Bob Miller,
and Carol Richey



Endowment

Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org

Simple Gifts Thank You

We are extremely grateful for all the Simple Gifts that have come in over the past year since June when Anita Wald-Tuttle kicked it off with her \$96 gift celebrating her long and rich life, and starting a fun wave of birthday contributions each month.

Although we have reached our minimum base of \$50,000 to allow us to use some of the earnings of the Endowment Fund towards special programs at UUCM...

We still need regular contributions coming in...!

Simple Gifts are a great way to honor special events in your life, or the passing of friends, family, and fellow UUCM-ers, or anything you feel like acknowledging with a small special contribution.



Legacy Gifts

The Endowment Committee would also like to encourage members and friends to help sustain UUCM as a vibrant and vital force for liberal religion for generations to come by making a Legacy Gift, if you can.

We have updated brochures available to help explain these programs, and we have packets put together with helpful forms and information, and would be delighted to speak with anyone who is interested in finding out ways to set up contributions through their wills, trusts and other final plans.

Please contact us at:

Endowment@uugrassvalley.org with your questions!

Membership Team



Laura Harter
Leader, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

SPRING CIRCLE SUPPERS 2024...

...are FULL! If you'd like to get on a wait list or see if a host can squeeze you in, please contact Laurie at CircleSuppers@uugrassvalley.org. And definitely check back in the fall for the next round of Circle Suppers!



A recent Circle Supper at Claire and Bob Miller's home -
photo by Shanti Emerson.

BE A GUIDE!

Join our Guide Program where we reach out to our newest members to build relationships, strengthen a sense of belonging to our UUCM community, and listen and learn from each other.

As a Guide, you will help a new member find their way around UUCM. Your role includes:

- ✓ Being a resource to answer questions, suggest ways to become involved, and let them know of UUCM happenings.
- ✓ Checking in from time to time, during the new member's first year, as much or as little as they'd like, to see how they are doing.
- ✓ Serving as a trusted conduit to help them feel heard and connected if they have concerns or questions.
- ✓ Encouraging enthusiasm and new ways to engage and support UUCM's mission.
- ✓ Fostering friendships that will continue in the years to come.

Our current guides tell us how rewarding this role is, and those being guided say the experience is meaningful and appreciated. Everyone is having a great time!

The good news is we need more guides because we are bringing on many new members! Come and be that welcoming face for our newest UUCMers.

MONTHLY LUNCHEES

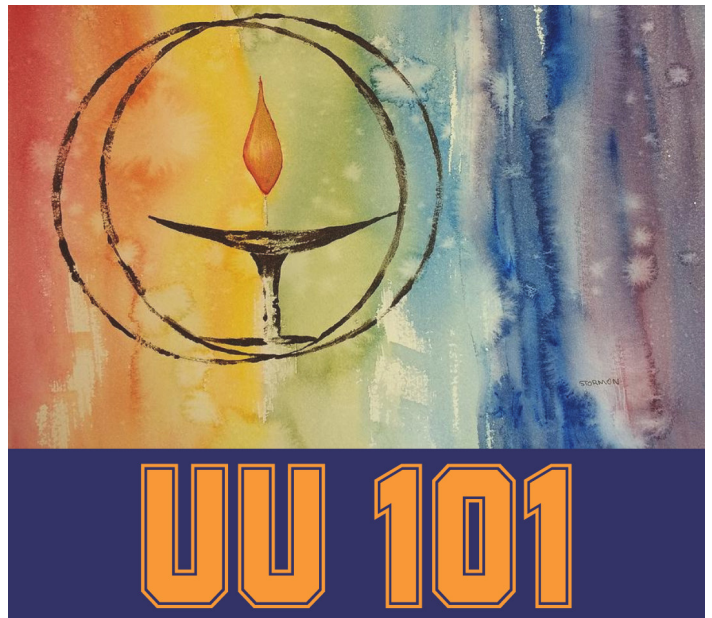
Let's Do Lunch potlucks are on hiatus and return in June. These casual lunches have been a great way to make new friends as well as deepen connections. Each month has been very different and very comforting and casual. I regret not taking a photo or two! Next time!

STARTING POINT

Our next Starting Point series will start sometime in May or June. If you are interested, please let Ruth Edwards know your preferred dates and times and get on the list. Email Ruth at startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org.

UU101

UU 101 continues the first Sunday of every month at noon in the library. Current members and newcomers are all welcome. We'll discuss the proposed changes in our UU Principles as well as UU history and UUCM's mission. Grab your refreshments and come on in!



HOW TO CONTACT US

We encourage you to sign up for all events and workshops on our website by going to the Event page or to the Calendar. If you need help navigating sign-ups, call Siobhan or Laura or send us a message at Membership@uugrassvalley.org. As always, we welcome your feedback, energy, and ideas for fun and engaging events.



Art & Aesthetics Team

Linda Siska, Leader,
Art & Aesthetics Team
art@uugrassvalley.org

If you have not yet had the opportunity to experience Eileen Hale's spectacular paintings, Eileen Adele Hale: Dream Surreal Paintings and Other Work, do not despair, there is still time. Her exhibit will be up through May 12.

We are indeed a talented congregation!

Coming Soon...

The Arts and Aesthetics Team is pleased to announce we will be featuring the art work of Shauna Smith in a new exhibit in our library beginning the second half of May. Shauna and her husband are new to UUCM and a welcome addition to our congregation; we are the lucky benefactors of Shauna's many talents. In Shauna's own words:

Hi Everyone,

My husband Ray and I are new to the Unitarian Universalist community here in Grass Valley and are just beginning to know a few people. We would love to meet you!

I am a mom and a grandma and have been a licensed marriage, family and child therapist for over forty years. I'm the author of *Making Peace With Your Adult Children* (HarperCollins), *Missing Father* and many articles, stories, poems, and a lullaby.

Like many children, making art and writing poems were ways to survive a difficult world, and the arts have continued to sustain me throughout the years. I will work in any medium available in the moment - pastels, oil, watercolor, silk, batik, clay, monoprints, collage, photography and even a mural. Most of my pieces were created because I fell in love with wildlife or a scene, was inspired to do portraits, mostly of loved ones, or because I needed to create a political/ social statement.

I will have several magnets of my artwork for sale - all proceeds to go to UUCM. Reception date in June to be announced.

-- Shauna Smith



Detail from "Threaded Through", by Eileen Adele Hale



"Infinity Horse: Interlaced" by Eileen Adele Hale



Shauna Smith & husband Ray Bacigalupi, and two of Shauna's artworks which will be featured in her upcoming show in the UUCM Library Art Gallery starting May 15.



Parish Care

Gwen Eymann
Leader, UUCM Parish Care Team
Caring@uugrassvalley.org

We all need extra care sometimes on our journey through life.

The UUCM Parish Care Team is here to help organize practical support for members and friends through times of need, offering support such as home or hospital visits, transportation to local appointments, a ride to UUCM on Sunday, preparing or delivering a meal, shopping, and essential errands. The Parish Care Team also sends cards of caring and celebration, makes friendly phone calls and visits, and assists with hosting and refreshments at memorial services.

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that we all share in the responsibility for one another's care, and we invite all members and friends of UUCM to become actively involved in this wonderfully important opportunity for service. If supporting this work interests you, please fill out this brief [Parish Care Team Volunteer Survey](#) to identify tasks you would be willing to do on occasion. The Parish Caring Team will contact you as needs arise.

For more information, to request care, or to share word of someone in need of care, please contact us at: Caring@uugrassvalley.org



PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

Gwen Eymann, *chair*,
Jenny Dewey, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman,
Anne Lyon, Cheryl Morris



Lay Pastoral Care Team

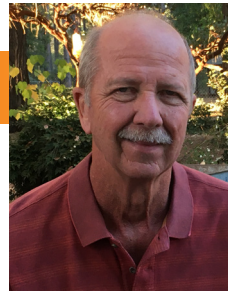
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

UUCM's Lay Pastoral Care Team (LPCT) offers a confidential, caring presence to congregants undergoing stressful life challenges. With the support and guidance of the minister, team members commit to be available for weekly caring conversations of up to one hour, and for the duration of a congregant's current challenge or until a time of closure arises naturally.

Please contact a member of the Lay Pastoral Care Team when you are facing difficult and stressful portions of your journey and if you feel that a companioning presence from one of our team members might be helpful to you.

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

George Dunstan, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva,
and Tom Wernigg, or you can email the whole team:
LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org



B & G Team

Wally Holtan, Leader,
Building & Grounds Team
B-G@uugrassvalley.org

Getting Stuff Done While Having Fun!

The Building & Grounds Team manages our day-to-day facility needs and goals for improvements for our church's physical environment. We seek volunteers that are willing to help us meet those needs through work parties and project development. These are individuals who like doing projects, repairs, cleaning, or working outside in gardens and yards. There are no requirements for joining, other than enjoying hands-on tasks and working with others.

Whether you are new to UUCM or have been a part of it for a while, if you would like to meet people while doing some fun and interesting things, the UUCM Building & Grounds Team is a good place to start.

-Wally

Feature

Sermon School by Jenny Dewey

I call it "sermon school." The real name is from a book called "The Shared Pulpit: A Sermon Seminar for Lay People." The book is a guide through the stages of learning to write a sermon.

Reverend Kevin Tarsa gave us a copy of *The Shared Pulpit*. I received the book with an immediate shudder of resistance. I thought of third grade and how I dislike books that resemble workbooks. After flipping through the pages, I realized third grade was long gone. This would be an entirely different experience. I read the book and liked it. None of the pages asked questions about two trains going certain speeds and how long did it take for one to pass the other in the station. (I never got that right.) The book provides information on how to build a sermon in seven sessions every two weeks.

I never realized sermons are built. The architecture of a sermon follows the same precepts as those required to design and create a building. If the design of a building works well, the building will not fall down. A sermon begins with an idea embedded in a story. The idea is explored, elaborated on, and expanded. The idea originating in the story is revisited at the end. A well-designed sermon captures the congregation's imagination and is not forgotten.

This is a simplistic generalization. Unitarian Universalist beliefs do not carry the burden of absolute truths, nor promises of salvation, nor prayers to be memorized. Spirituality may be the province of individual members, and yet it can be shared by all members of the church. There is inherent value in sharing the pulpit with a member of the congregation. The words worshipping together take on new meaning.

My writing a sermon worthy of our UUCM congregation is not likely. Delivering one poses another dilemma. Shyness, a soft voice, and poor enunciation make it certain I will never share the pulpit. Knowing this does not diminish my enthusiasm. I'm discovering new ways to write. The words of others in sermon school inform me.

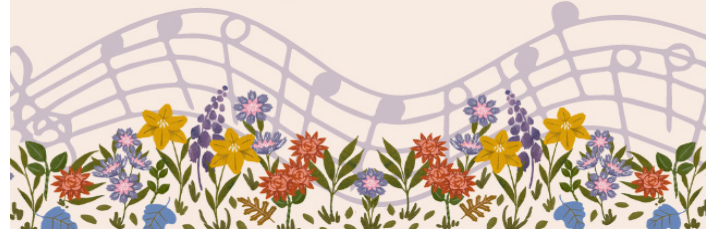
I am opened to new thoughts and feelings. I give myself the gift of listening.

Standing behind the pulpit with a magnificent sermon destined to go down in Unitarian Universalist history is not in my future. Opening my mind to new ways to design and build a good story is satisfying enough.

Upcoming Events

SIMPLE GIFTS: A Spring Music Concert at UUCM

Saturday, May 11 @ 7pm



Toby & Rev. Kevin's Spring Concert, **SATURDAY, MAY 11, 7:00 PM**

An evening of moving and exciting music with Toby Thomas-Rose and Rev. Kevin at the piano, Kate Canan on flute, Randy McKean on saxophone, and guests Rose-May Mickelson on violin and Martha Yourd on cello. The wonderfully varied music will include Handel, Mendelssohn, Ravel, Poulenc, Gjello, Scivales, and Russel Peterson, folk tunes and even a chance to sing along! Tickets \$30, discounts available if needed. You can [purchase advance tickets online](#) or pay in cash on Sunday, May 5, or at the door.

Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, June 8, 2024

10 am to 2 pm

Unitarian Universalist
Community of the Mountains

246 South Church Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Original Art
Vintage Collectible Art
Handmade Crafts
Book Sale
Bake Sale

with New Books by Local Authors!

www.uugrassvalley.org/

New Developments for our Justice Team

By Keith Johnson, Justice Team

The Justice team would like to share two exciting developments with you.

First, the team has adopted a new procedure for selecting our **Share the Plate** partners. The new procedure will allow the entire congregation to vote for our partners with the criteria for selection clearly spelled out in writing. Stay tuned for more specific information about how to vote for your preferred Share the Plate partner. Voting will occur in May, and the final selections will be made at the Justice Team meeting in June.

Second, the Justice Team members will now monitor the websites of at least 25 local non-profit organizations as well as UU affiliated organizations to identify any public events, fundraisers, workshops, etc. that would be of interest to our members. The team will advise the UUCM Administrator who will regularly update our calendar with information about these justice events taking place in Nevada County and the UU world. Anyone can click on the calendar item to get more detailed information about the who, what, and where of each event.

The Justice Team hopes that providing this timely information about justice events in our community will encourage greater participation in justice-making by members of our congregation.

Nisenan News

AN UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NISENAN PROJECT TEAM TASK FORCE

By Eileen Hale, Nisenan Task Force

Many of you have undoubtedly been seeing the amazing push to support CHIRP (the non-profit arm of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan) and the Nisenan, in their hope to purchase 232 acres of John Woolman School property, which encompasses the site of a Nisenan village, Yulic'a. The Phase 1 funding goal of \$1.5 million was met before the first deadline of April 4, which is so exciting, and there's been huge community support. Yay! There have been, so far, 3,100 individual donations.

To contribute, you can click this link: [Homeland Return GoFundMe](#). For the back story, there's a great [YouTube video on the Yulic'a site](#).



This is so wonderful – and ... there's still much more to be done. Woolman and CHIRP have been working hard together to make this happen, only to find the situation more complicated than anyone expected, requiring more time and more money to accomplish. Among other things, issues with infrastructure and permitting will have to be resolved before the sale can be completed. The need for more money, beyond the purchase price, was always expected - Phase 2 is intended to raise an additional \$.9 million - but the more we can raise beyond that, the better.

If you've experienced building a house, with unexpected construction costs, surprise! - or even just buying a home, which can bring its own surprises - you might not be surprised by this. This is like that, but in spades.

I have been looking at how much, how deeply, I value this hope - that, if it succeeds, not only will the Nisenan have land returned to them, but also the land will have its people returned to it. For me, in my worldview, this means so much. That I can get to live in a little corner of this continent where the land is coming awake to the return of its people, its partners; coming awake, coming alive, in a way that I feel it hasn't been for these nearly two centuries. That's worth a lot to me. The trees on that land will breathe the news to the trees around my house...

Meanwhile, our ["Facts and Fictions" presentation](#), given by Frank Lawrence, has made a real difference, I believe. There were about 40 people present onsite for the event, and another 65 or so attending online, with Woolman-affiliated folks mixed in in both groups. The recording was quickly posted on UUCM's website, and also on [CHIRP's](#). It has gotten 82 views on UUCM's YouTube channel, and another 194 on CHIRP's, and I have personally seen evidence of its effectiveness in helping resolve people's concerns about the sale.



Justice News



Volunteer drivers needed: Two options: grocery store drivers and truck drivers. Check with Steve Temple for more information.

Clean and dry paper grocery bags needed!

Share the Plate

UUCM's March *Share the Plate* recipient, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#) will receive \$942.07, thanks to generous UUCM members, friends, and visitors. These weekly donations add up - thank you all!

As of this writing, we are currently finishing up collections for our April *Share the Plate* recipient, [Citizens for Choice](#).

The KARE Crisis Nursery, Inc.



Kids Assistance and Respite in Emergencies

Our May *Share the Plate* recipient [KARE Crisis Nursery](#). KARE Crisis Nursery is focused on helping make the world around us a safer, happier place for the children and families in our community and surrounding areas by providing safe, nurturing care for the small children of families experiencing a stressful situation. KARE Crisis Nursery's vision is that all children in our community will be able to grow and thrive free from the threat or possibility of child abuse and/or neglect. Our mission, therefore, is to provide shelter and respite for the children and assistance to their families who are facing a crisis, and to safely and effectively supervise court ordered visitations for families seeking reunification.

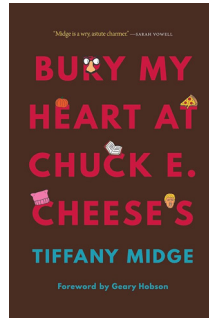
Thank you, each of you, for your continual compassion and justice-centered generosity.

2nd Sunday Book Group

USUALLY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:15 PM IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM

CONTACT: Theresa at BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org

Join the UUCM Second Sunday Book Group which starts at a NEW TIME. We will begin at 12:15 PM and end by 1:15 PM. We meet in the Channing Room (ramp room.)



Sunday, May 12
Bury My Heart at Chuck E. Cheese's
by Tiffany Midge,

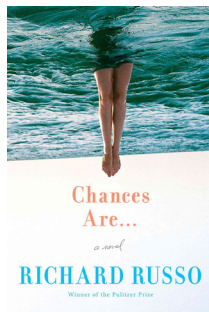
Presenter: Susan Merrill
This powerful and compelling collection of musings on life, politics and identity of a Native woman in America, artfully blends sly humor, social commentary and meditations on love and loss.

.....
[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

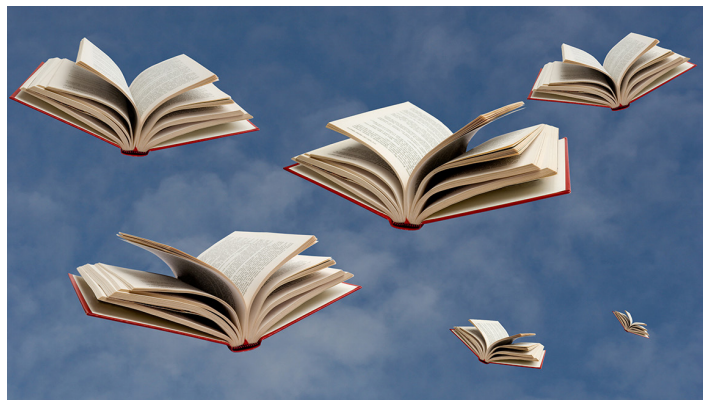
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UPCOMING SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CHOICES:



June 9, 2024 - Chances Are
by Richard Russo, 320 pages

This absorbing novel introduces a new level of suspense that will quicken the readers heart beat throughout this saga of how friendship's bonds are every bit as constricting and rewarding as those of family or any other community.
Presenter: Keith Johnson

Time to start looking for more books to read!



Community Connections – Online & In Person

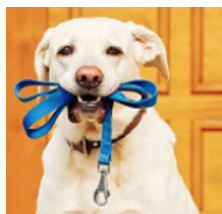
WEEKLY @ UUCM

Subscribe to the weekly e-chalice for Zoom links and phone numbers. If you need links, please contact our administrative assistant at Admin@uugrassvalley.org.

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON

Make Connections at UUCM

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!



WALKING GROUP

8:30 AM, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS,
OFFSITE
Email Walking@uugrassvalley.org
for info.

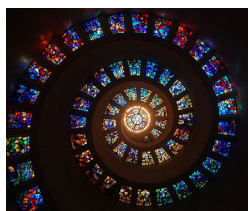
We meet on **Tuesdays** at the Wolf Creek Trail/Northstar Mining Museum parking area, and on **Thursdays** at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley. Be sure to ask our Administrative Assistant (Admin@uugrassvalley.org) to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can be informed of last minute changes.

MEN'S GROUP

WEDNESDAYS FROM 8:30 - 10:30 AM AT UUCM
Men gather to enjoy each other's company.
Contact for the group: Men@uugrassvalley.org

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7:00 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM
Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org



SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE
FOURTH SATURDAYS, 2:00 - 3:30 PM,
ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM

Questions? Please email:
Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM ADOPT-A-ROAD

SUNDAY, MAY 19 FOLLOWING THE SERVICE AT NOON

For those interested in participating in the second of many litter pick-ups along UUCM's Ridge Road Adopt-A-Road section, please meet after service at noon out front of the church. We'll carpool to Ridge Road. Collection bags, safety vest and litter picker-sticks provided. Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing, and bring water. Thanks for joining in.



HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM

Our UUCM Humanism Discussion Group is a gathering for both those who identify as humanists and those who are interested in learning about this philosophy. We gather to explore humanism and how it relates to the various aspects of our lives in today's world while encouraging self-exploration as well as relationship with the group.

The topic for our next meeting on **Wednesday, May 1 at 10:45 AM** at UUCM will be "A Humanistic Approach to Economics."

Topics for group discussion are chosen by participants and optional readings on the topics are made available prior to the meeting. When health precautions allow, we meet in person at UUCM. If you would like to participate via Zoom, request the link by emailing Humanism@uugrassvalley.org

Please view the UUCM Website Calendar for the most up to date meeting information.



WOMEN'S GROUP MONTHLY POTLUCK –

SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM

All UUCM women (and friends!) are invited to any Women's Group gathering. Come make connections with other UU women!

For reminders and RSVPs, join the Women's Group email list by sending an email to our Administrative Assistant, Siobhan Boylan, at: Admin@uugrassvalley.org.

Our next meeting is **Monday, May 13 at UUCM**. We had so much fun last year doing an Improv Night that we are doing it again! We'll start with a potluck and move on to some hilarious and spontaneous fun. This year we will have both Kimberly Ewing and Sandra Rockman as our facilitators, sharing their playful skills.

We would very much like to provide a little compensation for their time, so we are going to suggest an optional \$10 to \$20 donation per person for that evening for those who can.

Community Connections – Online & In Person

Beat Cafe Open Mic Night – TUESDAY, MAY 28 AT 6:30 PM

We all know there's plenty of poets, essayists, short-story writers, book authors, standup comics, etc., among our UUCM members and friends, and their "work" doesn't get enough airing, as in exposure to the light of day, or in this case, open-mic, read to a live audience under the spotlight. It's great to hear original works read live, and UUCM's Beat Café is your outlet!!!

Here's your chance to read aloud your original works at the first ever, UUCM-hosted Beat Café. Doors open to the Cafe, (aka UUCM sanctuary) at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, May 28 and open-mic begins at 6:30 PM.

Bring a beverage to share and finger food, if you'd like, but it's not required. Prepare for an unexpected evening!



UUCM Family Camping Trip - August 16-18, 2024

Please join us for our annual family camping trip in the Plumas-Eureka State Park. The park features family-friendly camping, crystal clear lakes, a historic mining-era village, beautiful hiking trails, and impressive, big mountain

views of surrounding peaks. We gather to enjoy fire circles, hiking and swimming, and of course a fabulous Potluck...and more. Contact Elizabeth Rose for more information. You can usually find her after service in the refreshment area, or you can find her contact information in the UUCM Directory in the Member section of our website.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

General Assembly 2024

You Are Invited to Virtual GA! THURSDAY, JUNE 20 - SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2024

The annual meeting of Unitarian Universalist congregations known as General Assembly will be held **online** this year over four days, June 20-23. No travel to a distant city is required! The UUCM Board has selected three church members this year to serve as voting delegates – Chuck Champlin, Janet Dunstan and Jeff Gold.

At the same time, all UUCM church members are invited to attend the virtual GA if they wish. The cost is \$315 until May 15, and \$400 up to dates of the conference itself. Some financial support is available. Contact UUCM board member Chuck Champlin with questions: trustee3@uugrassvalley.org.

The theme for this year's GA is "Love Unites, Stories Ignite." Co-moderators and long-time UUers Rev. Meg Riley and Charles Du Mond will steer the General Sessions. "Cohort gatherings" will enable attendees to come together with like-minded peers.

A particular GA feature each year is the Ware Lecture, this year featuring Julia Watts Belser, a rabbi, spiritual teacher and a longtime activist for disability and gender justice. With your registration, you can live-stream the lecture on Saturday, June 22 or access the video on-demand when it's made available.

A list of workshops will cover a variety of different topics and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement on social justice, climate justice, and other initiatives. These will be available for access on the conference site for several months after GA.

The conference will also feature a variety of music and worship services over the four days.

UUCM members are invited to register to attend GA at www.uua.org/ga

Introducing New Children's Books with Pluralism Themes at UUCM

By Cheryl Spaulding,

One of the amazing things about children's literature in the 21st century is its breadth and depth—a breadth of themes addressed in the dizzying array of titles coupled with deep exploration of those themes in individual books. The intellectual and emotional richness in children's literature today supports us in our efforts to highlight Unitarian-Universalist principles and values in our discussions with the children who attend Kids Connection on Sunday mornings.

Typically, we read and discuss a book after we complete our UU-inspired rituals of building our altar, lighting the chalice, and sharing our joys and sorrows. The books we read are the Kids Connection version of a Sunday sermon. Because the books we choose to share with the children play such a pivotal role in how we communicate with them about our UU worldview, we feel a responsibility to have engaging, correct, and up-to-date texts to help convey our intended messages. Many of the themes that we address with these readings and discussions are ones that have evolved over time, employing different linguistic conventions and emphasizing different ways of framing the relevant issues. We want to make certain that we are sharing with the children texts that are consistent with current ways of thinking and talking about these issues.



One very significant issue that we have addressed with our children recently is captured by the Soul Matters theme for May—namely Pluralism. Fortunately, this theme of pluralism is widely and honestly and creatively addressed in contemporary children's literature. To assist us in having rich and instructive discussions about the complexities of pluralism, we (the Family Ministry Team) decided to purchase some new books for our children's library, ones that openly and deftly address issues such as diversity, race, discrimination, and privilege in ways that are consistent with UU philosophy and that would be meaningful and engaging for the children we typically see on Sunday mornings.

Some of the new titles are "Don't Touch My Hair!," "How We Can Live—Principles of Black Lives Matter," "I Am Enough," and "Bodies Are Cool." We are looking forward to sharing them with the children and seeing what sort of discussions arise from them.

Finally, on some future Sunday, you might see one or more of our children leaving Kids Connection with an I VOTED TODAY sticker on their clothing, or even their foreheads. Occasionally, we present the children with two books, typically of similar content, and we ask them to vote for which book they want us to read to them. In this way, we work a small introduction to democratic process into our time together. If you see a young one, walking around with an I VOTED TODAY sticker, now you will know what their vote was for. You might ask them which book they voted for.



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: uugrassvalley.org



MOST UPDATED VERSION OF THE UUCM CALENDAR:

<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/calendar/>



Sunday Services are held at 10:30 AM by Zoom or on-site

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 TO 5:00 PM

(Our Administrative Assistant is available remotely on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.)

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

Rev. Kevin's office hours are currently held by appointment.

Contact Rev. Kevin at (231) 883-1058 or minister@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Siobhan Boylan,
Administrative Assistant

Toby Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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Admin@uugrassvalley.org

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(530) 274-1675

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Mountain Chalice Newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of the month prior to publishing.

Submit by filling out the online announcement form on our website, or here:

[Article Submission Form](#)

VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS: *Kathryn Young, Design/Layout; Lesley Champlin, Editing/Proofreading*