

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

November 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 12 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

Monthly Theme: The Practice of Repair

November 3 This Wednesday: Build an Ark?

Rev Kevin Tarsa and Worship Associate Gail Johnson Vaughan, with the UUCM Choir

This Sunday marks the beginning of a month exploring living love through the practice of repair. We live in a time where there is so much to repair, How do we even begin? Do we even have the energy to begin? And things are still breaking!

What needs repair or healing? How does the lens through which we see what's broken impact our hope or dismay? Do I have a role to play in repairing what I see as broken? Can I help put the pieces back together, or am I one of the pieces? Will what emerges be better because it was broken?

Come, let's begin this important exploration together.

November 10 Hold Everybody Up

Rev Kevin Tarsa and Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

The Sunday after a Presidential election is a Sunday we need to be together. What story will we tell ourselves about what happened and why? Will that story destroy by reinforcing a sense of us vs them, or will it restore by building a metaphorical ark that will hold everybody up?

No matter the election outcome, or perhaps lack of outcome at this point, come help us give voice to what we cannot yet put into words so that we will not get stuck, stymied, or trapped in our reactions.

November 17 Holy Waters: Shelter, Healing, Salvation, and Beginning Again

Rev Kevin Tarsa and Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

The theological topic of "soteriology" has to do with how a given religious tradition perceives salvation, deliverance, preservation, or release – the what, the why and the how of repair at the deepest levels. We Unitarian Universalists claim that the what, the why and the how of repair in these very human lives of ours is centered in love. What about you?

For this water communion service of reflection and repair - meeting head, heart, and body - please bring a small amount of water from home or from some place meaningful to you to add to our common bowl.

November 24 The Beauty of Brokenness... Continued on pg 4

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Living Love Through The Practice of Repair.

It is no accident that the theme of repair arrives in the month of the U.S. Presidential election. Whether we're talking about our own spirits and psyches, or our relationships with friends and family, or our local community, or the nation, mending, restoring, putting back together, and rebuilding will be necessary after what's already happened, let alone what may yet unfold in the weeks, months and years after the election.

But there is another set of synonyms for "repair" that points in a different and, I believe, important direction – to overhaul, renovate, rehabilitate, and adjust. In other words, it won't be about restoring what was, exactly. What "was" got us exactly where we are and would do so again, given the chance.

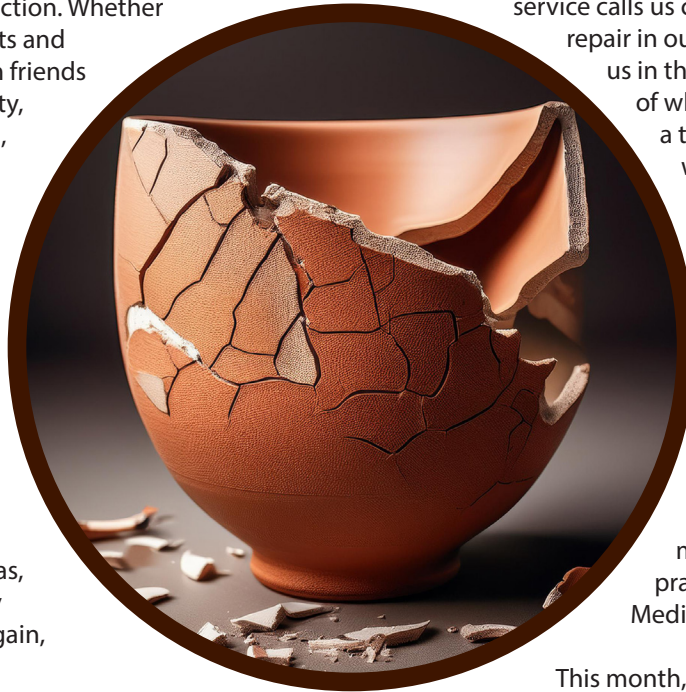
The path ahead, no matter how the election experience plays out, will ask us to restore certain basic fibers immediately and for the short term – protection, care, support, civility, connection. But we will have squandered the painful invitation of this time if that's all we aim for; if we think the task is only to "Make America (fill in the blank your way) Again," if we don't look for the learnings and the opportunities to do things differently.

Or maybe that's too difficult and demanding to consider just yet. We've got our many layers of anxieties about all of this to navigate at the moment.

Our UU Value of Transformation points out that "openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect." It calls us to "adapt to the changing world," noting that "we covenant (we make an aspirational promise to one another) to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically." Whew!

The services this month will invite us to explore "repair" together from various entrances, and they will each invite

us to grow. Our first two services are meant to help us first prepare for and then respond to the events and the emotions stirring in and among us relative to the election. The third service calls us closer in, to consider the place of repair in our personal lives, even as it grounds us in this UU tradition's understanding of what "saves" us. The final service – a tapestry of voices - dares to ask whether things can actually be stronger, better, after coming apart and being repaired.



Watch, too, for different chances to step out of the storm and to let your amygdala, your breathing, and your spirit ease for a bit. Would it help you to hang out at UUCM for a bit on November 5? To meditate together? To share a meal? To light votive candles and/or pray? To join in singing at the Singing Meditation on Nov 7? Or...?

This month, we hold each other up so that we have the best chance of holding everybody up in the end. Oh, how fortunate we are to be on this journey together.

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

Board of Trustees



Taylor Carey, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees
President@uugrassvalley.org

From November on we will face the aftermath of ... something. Regardless of the outcome, this election bears a perverse significance beyond anything in my lifelong experience. While there is nothing new in the public's skepticism of every political utterance, I don't recall a time when nobody believed anything. The sense that nothing is grounded in reality troubles the nation's psyche.

Even at our beloved UUCM, "campaign BS fatigue" and anxiety about the future drain our enthusiasm. Our services and Reverend Kevin's unique and profound insights into the state of our faith, society, and place in the universe do not fully displace growing concerns about the force of ill winds driving us toward a dangerous shore. My columns so far have been devoted to urging the community to rejoin the fray, to get back involved with the things that bring you joy. Yet, I, too, feel more than a little unsettled by the pangs of uncertainty and doubt that perturb our hearts.

Sump'n ain't right with this picture.

The problems that we face at UUCM are visible everywhere. Churches, community non-profits, and other charitable and faith-based organizations throughout the nation report the same disquieting phenomenon: people are hanging back. Though supported and comforted by our faith, we remain pierced by doubts about our world. Our church is sound, we can pay our bills and meet our obligations, but we still display symptoms of the country's malaise.

There is something, however, that keeps alive my hopes for a better future: UUs have never merely *reflected* their surroundings. We are neither conformists nor followers. We are the people who, though living quietly among the greater society, are not the same. We are pot-stirrers and troublemakers. When challenged with taunts to "put up or shut up," we invariably opt for the former. We follow the road less traveled because that's where one finds the experiences that make life worth living. In the words of President Obama, "we are the people we have been waiting for."

Except that we have not been waiting. Throughout the history of our epoch, Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists have never awaited the call to action. Whether impelled by our faith or having been drawn to it by our inherent drive to serve in the cause of humanity, UUs have been among the first to identify coming challenges and to take action to meet them. Like many of you, I have vivid memories of the Civil Rights Era. I lived in the South during a pivotal time in the early days of that sadly continuing struggle. I remember the hatred and vitriol directed at black children whose only sin in life was the color of their skin. On the first day of school in the first year of my exile in Alabama, the Governor, George Wallace, stood in the doorway to block the entry of a little black girl. He stood, not as a renegade outlier in a sea of goodness, but as the mainstream representative of government that gave racial hatred a grounding in the law.

UUs were on the front lines of the battle for civil rights. Although we have not slipped all the way back to those days we are being called to action again. Whichever way the electoral winds blow, we face an aftermath of historic challenges, either in resisting the ugly slide back into the casual acceptance of factional hatreds, or in repairing the grievous injuries already inflicted on the nation's character. This is what we were born to do.

-Taylor

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

Taylor Carey	<i>President</i>
Pam Kisor	<i>Vice President</i>
Gail Schulz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Open Position	<i>Secretary</i>

Members at Large:

Chuck Champlin, Jeff Gold & Charlene Dugan

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



When this lands in your mailbox, we will be just a few days away from the election. Rev. Kevin and Gail Johnson Vaughan have been hard at work planning the November services, and you can imagine the task facing them: providing meaningful services that speak to the needs and feelings of the moment....without knowing the outcome of the election.

I've taken a sneak peek at their planning so far, and even their rough ideas on paper touch my heart. I will only say there are going to be some exceptional experiences ahead for us to share. So, whatever happens, you can feel confident that we will get through it together and will be both comforted and challenged, as UUCM services so often do. Current events may be placed in a larger context, and we will be offered new perspectives to look at them.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS WELCOME!

At a recent evening of poetry reading, participants voiced a hope that their poetry could be included in upcoming Sunday services. This is music to the ears of the worship team, as we welcome members and non-members to add their gifts! It doesn't have to be poetry; it could be a narrative in the form of what we call "Reflections," or a piece of music, or something from the visual arts that could be shown and the significance explained.

Take a look at the Soul Matters themes for the year, and if one has resonance for you, go for it! The earlier you find a month that speaks to you, the sooner you can be connected with the

Worship Team members crafting services for that month to find the most meaningful place for your work. Please let Cheryl Morris know of your interest, or if you have questions.

Soul Matters Themes

The Soul Matters theme for November is Living Love Through The Practice of Repair, and it's never too early to begin to ponder what this might mean. Personally, interpersonally, here at UUCM, in our wider community, nationally, internationally... Let us enter November with courage, confidence, and gratitude for all the ways we support each other.



Soul Matters Themes for 2024-25 The Practices of...

November:	Repair
December:	Presence
January:	Story
February:	Inclusion
March:	Trust
April:	Joy
May:	Imagination
June:	Freedom



Monthly Evening Service



Joys & Sorrows

SECOND THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH

This month's service: Thursday, November 14, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

New: Music beginning at 6:30 PM

Join us for an intimate, candle-lit service of singing together and sharing the joys and sorrows in our hearts.

Come early for gentle, meditative, instrumental music beginning at 6:30, this month with Rev. Kevin at the piano. Take time to breathe and to be held by the music out of the busyness of the day and the world's worth of concerns.

Upcoming Services

Continued from page 1...

November 24 *The Beauty of Brokenness*

Worship Leader Gail Johnson Vaughan and
Worship Associate Cheryl Morris

Can what's been repaired be more beautiful than what was broken? Kintsugi, the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold is a worthy metaphor for our lives as it reminds us that embracing imperfections can create a more beautiful and resilient "us" where the "scars" of our brokenness can be part of the design, rather than trying to hide them.

*Come join us as a trio of our members weave a tapestry of beauty born of brokenness. **Bring repaired objects...***



Membership

Laura Harter
Leader, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

Membership Musings

Over the past few months, Jim Bair has posed some interesting questions about Unitarian Universalism and UUCM. He was not sure who to ask or how to get answers. I invited him to share his questions and reflections on important topics. This is the first in a series of articles by Jim; topics will range from exploring UU values to UUCM operations and workings. I hope these articles will give us all something to think about and increase our collective understanding of our church home. As always, the Membership Team invites your feedback and input.

Unitarian Universalists Love Love

By Jim Bair

"Love" is the center of our UU Values. What does that mean to members of UUCM? I observe that UUs express love in a variety of ways rather than the "love of God" or "God's love." While more has been written about love than any other English word, such an abstract concept is best understood through examples. Not long ago, when the roof of a member's home collapsed in a snowstorm, UUs contributed for most repairs. On an international level, UUs banded together to bring a family to safety from war-torn Haiti, providing everything from a place to live to air travel, rides, and start-up costs. I was truly amazed at this expression of love.

I experienced our love for community when UUs banded together forming a Task Force to stop a horrendous gold mining project. I felt the power of love as we worked towards influencing Nevada County to vote against the mine. We wrote more letters than any other organization and testified mightily against the potentially lethal health and environmental impacts. I could not have stood up to Nevada County and the foreign corporation without the loving support of UUs. It's truly loving when we stand up for justice to aid those in need, and support voters' rights by writing more than 33,000 postcards to get out the vote!

Love as a core value means that I feel acceptance and caring as an individual, and I strive to be accepting and caring of all. Our broad acceptance is exemplified by participation that is open to all members, in all aspects of our church, including our services, artistic expressions, physical and business operations, and leadership roles.

There's much more to share about what it means to be a member of UUCM -- watch for the next Mountain Chalice.



UU101

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



Treasurer

Gail Schulz, Treasurer
UUCM Board of Trustees

Treasurer's Update

On October 19, the first of our four quarterly statements was sent to each of you with pledges in effect. You will receive three more statements this fiscal year. The one in January will include information for the entire calendar year, which can be used for filing tax returns. April brings another one, focused on pledges and payments status, and in July you will receive one that covers the entire fiscal year. A big shout-out to Siobhan for getting these out. We all believe in full communication.

Now, it is up to you! Please open and examine the statement. If there is a discrepancy or concern reach out either to Siobhan, at admin@uugrassvalley.org, or to Gail Schulz at treasurer@uugrassvalley.org.

Finally, just a gentle reminder that our bills and salary commitments come each and every month. I know a lot of us have been contributing heavily to other things this election season (I know I have), but please do not forget the needs of UUCM! Our continuing generosity allows us to support our rich array of programs and activities as we work to create a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just.

– Gail



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,
Anne Lyon, Cheryl Morris



Lay Pastoral Care Team

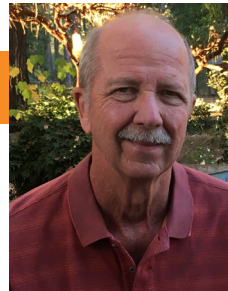
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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 Grant, Sue Gregory, 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

Holiday Happenings!

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE
THANKSGIVING
AT UUCM



Thursday, November 28, 2024
at 2:00 P.M.

NO OUT-OF-TOWN PLANS THIS YEAR?
NO FAMILY NEARBY?
TOO MUCH WORK TO PREPARE **ALL THAT FOOD?**

**Come to UUCM's Annual
Thanksgiving Potluck with Rev. Kevin Tarsa
and your UUCM family!**

(You are welcome to bring non-member guests.)



Please sign up at
uugrassvalley.org/thanksgiving-potluck/
Let us know what food you are bringing!

HOLIDAY Bazaar

... *Calling for Donations* ...

Isn't it too early to see images of the Holiday Season? Not for those of us thinking ahead to our wonderful, annual Holiday Bazaar!

It's time for UUCM members and friends to search through their beautiful treasures and make some decisions... Might some of your items, decorative or useful, be better used as donations to UUCM's Holiday Bazaar? Perhaps an item that you would be tempted to buy? Not only would this item delight a new owner, but it would bolster our UUCM coffers!

Please bring your Holiday Bazaar treasures to UUCM's office any time that the building is open. Make sure to note your name and suggested sale price!

Our Holiday Bazaar will be open December 1, 8, and 15, after the Sunday services.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact the Laurie Bell or Maryann Currington at HolidayBazaar@uugrassvalley.org.



Christmas Giving Tree Project

Christmas is just around the corner, and we want to get our community excited and prepared for the Christmas Giving Tree. This year UUCM will be partnering with Child Advocates/CASA. Keep your eyes on the e-Chalice and the Sunday announcements for further information. We will plan to have the Christmas Tree up and gift tags on before Thanksgiving.

Blessings to this generous and caring community,
- Gwen Eymann-Parish Care Team
and Keith Johnson,
Social Justice Team.

On the left, Robin Hart and Gwen Eymann pick up the gifts from last year's giving tree project.



Bending the Arc Task Force

By Gail Johnson Vaughan, BTATF Member

CHEERS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED!

Hurray for our postcard team! Hurray for the writers. Hurray for the funders. Hurray for those who recruited their friends and relatives to write and fund. Hurray for those who counted out stacks of 20 postcards each and compiled packets. Hurray for those who delivered packets to those who couldn't come pick them up. Hurray for the Monday morning postcard party club. Hurray for those who cheered us on, who offered gratitude, who kept things going when I was in SF supporting my hubby's hospital stays. Hurray for the love that was sent on each postcard. Hurray for being part of a community that steps up to make a difference again and again and again!

33,000 postcards – amazing, frankly beyond belief. Feel free to drop one more donation in the donation jar to help us pay off the cost of the stamps, postcards, labels, ink, paper, and all that stuff.

FROM JIM PERKINS:

The Bending the Arc task force has as its goal confronting white privilege and reducing white racism. We are currently working on our strategic plan for next year. If you are interested in joining our efforts, or have ideas for initiatives that the task force can work on, please contact me at BendingTheArc@uugrassvalley.org.

"The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



At Interfaith Food Ministry, where we serve 10,000-13,000 individuals each year, our goal is to create lasting holiday memories for every client family. We served 8,000 Nevada County residents with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals in 2023. We expect to see even higher numbers this year.

Our holiday meal includes turkey or ham, potatoes, vegetable, soup, and cranberry sauce. How much does it cost? \$30.

As the holidays approach, our goal is to provide each client family with a special meal. We can't do it without your generosity so please help! [Interfaith Food Ministry website](#)

Share the Plate

UUCM's September Share the Plate recipient, [Nevada County Habitat for Humanity](#), will receive \$911.47, 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 October partner, [Bear Yuba Land Trust](#)



Our November Share the Plate recipient is [Nevada County Citizens for Choice](#). C4C believes that every person deserves reproductive justice: the ability to make educated choices about their reproductive lives and health, and access to the affordable care they need. C4C supports our local community and has been the trusted source for thousands of people since The Clinic! opened in 2006.

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



Hospitality House Donations

UUCM is supporting Hospitality House by collecting donations of needed items for their guests. With the upcoming cooler weather some needed items have changed.

HOSPITALITY HOUSE NEEDS THESE ITEMS ONLY:

- Towels
- Twin-sized blankets
- Men/Women's sweatpants & sweatshirts - all sizes
- Women's underwear - all sizes
- Men/Women's coats & jackets - all sizes

Please leave donations in the designated bin in the UUCM refreshments room.

Thank you in advance for your generosity,
- Laurie Bell and Keith Johnson

Community Connections

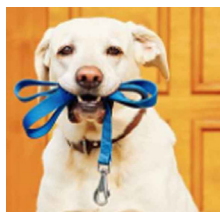
WEEKLY @ UUCM

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

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, OFFSITE
Email Walking@uugrassvalley.org

MEET AT 8:30 AM

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, Siobhan (Admin@uugrassvalley.org) to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can hear about 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



UUCM ADOPT A ROAD

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 8:00 AM

Meet up at Nevada Union High School's upper parking lot. Donuts, no doubt will be served.

Collection bags, safety vests and litter picker-upper-sticks provided.

Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing, and bring water.

We plan to be finished in time for UUCM's 10:30 AM church service. Thanks for joining in.



WOMEN'S GROUP

MONTHLY POTLUCK –

SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM
AT UUCM

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

Our next meeting is **Monday, November 11 at 6:00 PM at UUCM**. We're having our annual PMS Party! We'll share Pizza and watch a Movie, breaking halfway through for a make-your-own Sundae bar! Bring your favorite ice cream topping, plus cash to reimburse for the cost of pizza and ice cream.

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.



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.

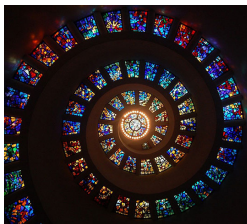
Our group's purpose is to connect and intellectually explore the issues that touch our daily lives through Humanism's values and principles. Humanism emphasizes ethical living, critical thinking, and social justice while aiming to inspire compassionate action and mutual understanding.

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 take part via Zoom, request the link by emailing Humanism@uugrassvalley.org

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, November 6, at 10:45** at UUCM is the day after the general election and I think it's likely that while the results may not be determined yet that election topics in general will be what's on everybody's mind. Just in case election related topics aren't what is grabbing our attention we will pursue the topic of reality.

Please view the UUCM website calendar for the most up to date meeting information.

Community Connections – Online & In Person



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

Questions? Contact:
Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org

SPIRITUALITY IN A CHALLENGING WORLD

'We know people are exhausted by the constant drumbeat of pessimism, fear, anger, and disrespect. The answer is not simply talking about policies and events more kindly. Or in just looking at the good... It is in loving one another despite our differences... The answer is not to go left or right – or to find some point in the center. It is to go upward – to lift our thoughts to the things that matter most, and then to use that as a lens for understanding others, [ourselves,] and the world,' offers Mark Sappenfield, editor of the Christian Science Monitor.

The Spirituality Sharing Circle offers quiet space for us to pause, to lift our spirits, and to share with each other what emerges. This month we meet on Saturday, November 23 at 2:00 PM at UUCM. (Zoom is available if requested in advance.) Got questions? Contact spiritualitycircle@UUgrassvalley.org.



ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE

SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAYS, 12:00 TO 2:00 PM
IN THE REFRESHMENTS ROOM

Come and meet with other UUs every second and fourth Tuesdays at noon in the Refreshments Room to work on your own art or craft form! Enjoy each other's company while working on independent projects. You're sure to get encouragement and inspiration! No teacher or facilitator. Nine people have signed up so far! Let us know if this schedule works for you too: we can fit in a couple more.

And... we can have a group exhibit of our work in the UU library from May 15 through August 15! Fine to include other pieces besides those worked on together. Of course, showing your work is completely optional - don't let it deter you from joining our circle!

Questions? Contact arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.o

THE BEAT AND JAM GOES ON...

Please note: Due to Thanksgiving week, the Cafes will be on different Tuesdays and Thursdays in November.



Share your old or newer original poems or essays at the Beat Cafe's open mic, held the **Third Tuesday, November 19**. Contact BeatCafe@uugrassvalley.org with questions.



Guitar tuned, finger calluses toughened-up, and singers will be hitting the high notes for this month's Jam Cafe, UUCM's semi-karaoke style event held on **Thursday, November 21**. Contact JamCafe@uugrassvalley.org with questions.



WRITING SESSIONS AT UUCM OFFERED BY JENNY DEWEY –

MONDAY SESSIONS:

Three times a month: on the first, second, and fourth Mondays from 1:30 – 3:30 PM.

THURSDAY SESSIONS:

Every Thursday from 1:30 – 3:30 PM.

Interested in spending more time writing? Author and illustrator Jenny Dewey offers the opportunity to spend time writing with a supportive group of other writers. All levels of writers are welcome. Her experience as a writer and mentor evolved from authoring and illustrating many books for children. She also taught adults and children writing and drawing in Santa Fe, New Mexico. If you want more information, contact Jenny at jduucm.com.

Community Connections – Online & In Person

UUCMers Keeping it Clean!

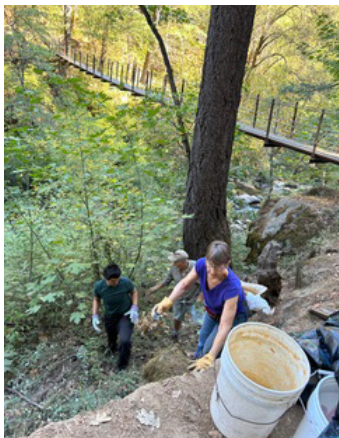
On September 28, a team of UUCM members & friends met to take part in SYRCL's annual Yuba River Cleanup. They were assigned to clean up the trails and woods along Deer Creek off Providence Mine Road in Nevada City.

Reine Thibeault was there and shared her experience:

"We worked at the end of Providence Mine Rd. A few of us chose to stay up above on trails that were easy to navigate. Others headed down to the riverbed. It was a positive surprise to see that the trail is pretty clean; thank you to all the hikers that pick up as they enjoy this picturesque area. We found the majority of litter along the road on our return to the parking lot. A lot of it looked like it may have been thrown from cars. An abandoned encampment was discovered right next to where we were parked, and several people worked hard to clear that area.

Afterward, we met at Pioneer Park to enjoy the lovely lunch from El Barrio. A lot of good conversation!"

A big thanks to all who took part and to Shannon Dooley-Miller, who signed up to host a team from UUCM and organized the volunteers.



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

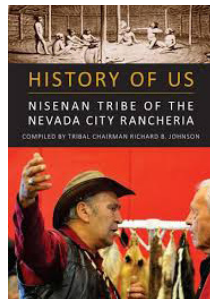
Note: Our October meeting was moved to November due to a scheduling conflict, so our book selections are all moving forward one month.



November 10, 2024:
Search by Michelle Huneven
Presenter: Susan Merrill

A sharp and funny novel of a congregational search committee, told as a fictionalized memoir by Dana Potowski. Dana is a restaurant critic and food writer and a longtime member of a progressive Unitarian Universalist congregation in

Southern California. Under pressure to find her next book idea, she's asked to join the church search committee for a new minister and agrees, resolving to secretly pen a memoir, with recipes, about the experience. The memoir, *Search*, follows the travails of the committee and their candidates—and becomes its own media sensation.



December 8, 2024:
The History of Us: Nisenan Tribe of the Nevada City Rancheria
by Tribal Chair Richard B. Johnson
Presenter: Cynthia Burton

The History of Us is about what daily life was like for the local Nisenan for thousands of years until about 1850. It relies on past Research by scholars and interviews with living tribal members. Did you know nursing mothers chewed poison oak so their babies would have immunity?

Part two describes the changes after 1850 when gold was discovered and "this was the beginning of the great downfall of our Nisenan culture." Both parts, one happy and one tragic, can help us understand our neighbors, the Nisenan, who still live among us.

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[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

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Find a list of the next several months of book selections at [UUCM Book Group Selections](#)

Growing Our Offerings for Tweens and Teens

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

The effects of the pandemic on life at UUCM have mostly either faded from view or been incorporated into new ways that we accept as our new normal. There are, however, a few pandemic-related shadows in our UUCM lives that we would willingly cast aside if only we were in a position to just make that happen.

One of these lingering effects is the current lack of a tween/teen program. Often, I encounter a long-time UUCMer who remembers fondly the robust and active teen programs of pre-pandemic days. The descriptions of the number of youth involved and the amazing activities in which they participated suggest to me that those were indeed halcyon days.

Whenever I grapple with this obvious gap in our Family Ministry offerings, I do so from three points of view:

First is the view of our past. Many of us have rich and cherished memories of the thriving tween/teen programs in the pre-pandemic days. These memories can clearly serve as ticklers for how to think about what could be again.

Second is the view of our future. We have active imaginations about what a new tween/teen program might look like, including creative thoughts about how the spaces and materials we have available now might be used as the starting point for creating future programs.

In between those two perspectives, one looking back and the other forward, there is a third perspective, one grounded in the reality of the here and now. This third perspective is rich with opportunities. We have materials and spaces to use as a launch pad for a program. What we currently lack is the human resources necessary to bring this program to life. In addition, the number of tween or teen youth currently attached to our UUCM community is limited in number. We do recognize,

however, that our growing Kids' Connection program likely will yield an active cohort of tweens in a few years' time, and we want to be able to welcome them into a thriving tween program as they age out of our program for younger children.

One operating principle that we want to use going forward with our efforts to rebuild a youth culture and youth programs is to begin building this culture and these programs before we have the people who eventually will be a part of them. For example, instead of waiting to have a cohort of youth to serve, we need to have a program in place, with people ready to greet youth with warm welcomes when they first show up looking for a program to step into. In addition, if we want to recruit adults to collaborate with us in designing and delivering youth programs, we would do well by having at least some parameters of those programs in place so that these potential youth mentors will have some idea of what they are stepping into.



Toward that end, we have begun "planning to plan." I realize that phrase—"planning to plan"—sounds tenuous and amorphous. We have made some decisions to host a set of discussions focused on how best to meet the needs of our youth and their families. As we move forward to rebuild programs for our current and future youth, we want to be taking into consideration the perspectives of the people who will be touched by those programs (tween or teen). At some point, we will reach out to selected members of the UUCM community with invitations to join us in these discussions. We hope to tap into some of the experience and wisdom of UUCMers who have spent their professional or service-related lives working with youth.

Participation in these discussions in no way constitutes a commitment to working in the programs that we will offer our youth. We just want to get our ideas flowing with input from people in the know.

So, all of this is to say that we are very aware that we need to bring back the once thriving youth programs here at UUCM. There is no lack of desire on the part of the Family Ministry Team! Challenges do exist, but most of them relate to having a sufficient number of young people who want to join such a group and a team of adults who want to collaborate in implementing vibrant programs for the young people who find their way to us. We welcome your participation in and contribution to this process.



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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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 - 12:30 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*

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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*