

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

March 2025

## 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 14 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

### March: Living Love through the Practice of Trust

**March 2** *Life Flows On: Trusting Yourself to the Water*  
 Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with the UUCM Choir,  
 and Carol Nimick, Worship Associate

*We begin this trust-themed month by exploring the origins of our personal sense of trust, and by inviting that personal sense of trust into conversation with the concept of faith. Allan Watts claimed that "To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don't grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float." Easier said than done for most of us. However, we are not alone.*

**March 9** *Don't Let a Serious Disaster Go to Waste: Hope and the Fear of Hope*  
 Rev. Kevin Tarsa,  
 with Randy McKean, Worship Associate

*The current frantic attempts to dismantle democracy are challenging many people's sense of trust and hope in the future. Surprisingly, for some it's not a lack of hope that is the issue, it's the fear of holding hope, hope that might be dashed or disappointed, a fate that seems more painful than not holding hope in the first place. What's a Unitarian Universalist to do?*

**March 16** *Trust the People: Love-centered Promises and Possibilities*  
 Rev. Kevin Tarsa and all, with Carol Nimick,  
 Worship Associate

*Why be, and be part of, a religious, values-centered community these days? And how? Steeped in vital questions about various*

*freedoms and who makes decisions, our religious ancestors came up with their own answers through a series of cottage meetings begun in 1637. In the process, they planted and watered the seeds of democracy for this nation. They did so by placing their concept of love at the center. What are we to do now with the legacy we've inherited?*

**March 23** *Spring Inflection: Faith in Nature*  
 Lindsay Dunckel & Elizabeth Rose, Worship Assoc.

*We gather just after the Spring equinox, as the light begins to overturn the looming darkness. Trusting in this season of renewal, we'll explore through ritual, words, and song what in us is called to emerge.*

Service Descriptions continued on Page 4...

## ▶ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ◀

Item	Page
Upcoming Services.....	1 and 4
From the Minister .....	2
Board of Trustees .....	3
Words from the Worship Team .....	4
Evening Contemplative Service.....	4
Adult Learning Opportunities .....	5
Stewarding Guidance Group.....	6
UUCM Auction: Save the Date & Donate .....	6
Membership Team .....	7
Facilities Exploration Update .....	7
Strategic Planning Committee .....	7
Parish & Lay Pastoral Care Teams .....	8
Building & Grounds Team.....	8
Art & Aesthetics Team: New Art Exhibit.....	9
Feature: A Story of Two Remarkable People.....	10
Justice News and Activities.....	11-12
Community Connections .....	13-14
UUCM Book Group.....	14
UUCM Family Ministry .....	15
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours .....	16



Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

### *Living love through the practice of trust...*

Now there's an invitation for this moment, when our trust and our faith in so many human realities are challenged day by day. It's in these moments that we turn to our sources of reassurance, our anchors for our courage, our trusted distillers of truth, our reservoirs of hope. (Well, those and sugar. Or binged TV shows. Or myriad distractions and self-soothing practices.)

Seriously, when our faith and trust is shaken, we are likely to turn toward familiar groundings, to return to what has helped us before, or to what we believe might anchor us adequately now. It can be a revealing experience, shedding light on how our heart, our psyche, and our spirit operate, on how we've grown, and on the deep, long-ago associations still rooted in us.

To be sure, it is important for us to regulate our emotional responses first, to calm our understandable anxiousness and fear enough to be able to see more clearly the truth of what is and of what we can do. As we're able to do so, we might, in the process, catch a deeper glimpse of what and who we truly trust when all else fails, of where we place our deepest faith.

The Soul Matters packet this month (a resource for the small monthly circles that practice deep sharing and listening together at UUCM) includes an invitation to engage a complete-the-sentence exercise titled [What Do You Turn To?](#) The series of 25 prompts begins with "When my path turns uncertain, I turn to..." and ends with "When life turns hard and I need to feel something tender and soft, I turn to..."

The encouragement is to complete the sentences rather quickly, before "shoulds and oughts" and the urge to have the "right" answers get a chance to creep in. I recommend it to you.

For many of us who find our way to UU communities, the depth of the current national and world challenges to our deepest values and trust in humanity reaches the level of a crisis of faith. It is a painful and yet potentially fruitful crack in our expectations and assumptions, a crack those among us who hold marginalized identities may have been facing and living within for a long time. The crack affords us a crisis of faith that can reveal our current anchors and whether or not they feel true enough, substantial enough, meaningful enough for when we really need them, like now. I recommend asking yourself these 25 variations on "what you turn to when..." to surface both personal insight and your personal spiritual/emotional resources.



This month, in Sunday services, we'll explore our sense of trust through the lenses of Faith (looking for the origins of our personal sense of trust), Hope (looking for the ways we can trust beyond the frightening present), and Love (trust in and within relationship and community), we'll root ourselves in our Faith in Nature, and we'll honor the tender, frayed edges of trust that knit so much of life together, including our broken hearts.

May it be a month that helps us find our most meaningful faith and trust, at least for this part of our journey.

With care,  
- Rev. Kevin

### MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS



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

Email [Admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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](mailto:President@uugrassvalley.org)

You all have been very gracious in accepting my monthly pontifications without complaint. This month's column will impose less heavily upon your good nature.

As you all can see, the sprucing up of our little cathedral continues, transforming many formerly dingy spaces into bright, inviting gathering places. Many thanks to Gail Schultz and the hard-working volunteer crew for their tireless efforts.

Although resting primarily upon Rev. Kevin's genial shoulders and the ministerial side of the leadership equation, no one can have missed the increasing numbers of attendees at our services. The Board has made clear its full support for his efforts to come to grips with the wonderfully challenging riddle of too many people for too little space, no matter how bright and inviting. The sprucing up crew can make things look bigger and brighter, but no matter how hard we try the sanctuary resists expansion. Despite our modest acreage, I find myself encouraging everyone I meet who betrays even the slightest curiosity about UUCM to attend and see for themselves. Turning away or discouraging people from attending because of our tight quarters ranks nowhere among our principles and values.

I also want to take a moment to revisit our Mid-Year meeting. It turned out to be livelier and more interesting than I had anticipated. The actively expressed interest and participation of the members present seemed a bit sharper and more attuned than expected. I mean this in the most positive and appreciative way. I was prepared for a bylaws amendment that was free of controversy only to be brought up short. That is among the many reasons I love our congregation. Folks want to know what folks want to know and they are blessedly

forthcoming about it. That's the way it is supposed to be. If anyone ever has a question or a doubt troubling them, please do not hesitate to bring it up, whether at a meeting or in passing with a Board member. That's what we are here for. If you believe that the Board should address something that it has not, *tell us*. For example, at one of the Board listening gatherings, a suggestion was made to provide cough drops for attendees and they appeared. I don't think it was magic.

I think it was Carol Richey, which may be the same thing. But whatever, *please speak up*.

At the Mid-Year meeting, the discussion around our relationship with the Nisenan Tribe was particularly lively. Some expressed concerns that the Task Force not being renewed would mean the loss of our relationship with them. That was not the intention. The discussion then addressed how allowing the Task Force to lapse signals a maturing relationship with the Tribe. Task Forces are entities of limited scope, purpose, and duration. That model does not fit our relationship with the Nisenan. We will continue to ally ourselves with the Tribe and its concerns in ways that best suit the needs of the moment.

Okay, I can't close without an observation about the Trump administration's hostility to human values. A recent news article suggested that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) would no longer publish its flu vaccination schedule and recommendations. Whether the article was correct or not, it seems readily apparent that the incoming leadership of the federal public health system has shaken our confidence in the agencies that have guarded our health, and further intends to pursue theatrics, disruption, and chaos before settling down to matters of actual public health concern. Therefore, it is imperative that everyone pay attention and stay informed about the presence of seasonal communicable diseases and their prevention *without depending on the federal government for help*. So far, it appears that the California Department of Public Health will *not* shirk its responsibilities, but it is best to be on our toes just the same.

*-Taylor*

**UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025**

Taylor Carey	<i>President</i>
Carol Richey	<i>Vice President</i>
Gail Schulz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Lin Jovanovic	<i>Secretary</i>

**Members at Large:**  
Chuck Champlin, Jeff Gold & Charlene Dugan

**UUCM Committees:**  
Finance • Governance • Endowment  
Nominating

*Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. An email announcing the meeting and a Zoom link will be sent to the community each month, one week prior to the meeting.*

*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](mailto:Worship@uugrassvalley.org)



### Notes from a Sunday morning:

Sun is streaming through the open front doors into our light and bright foyer, with the beautiful prints hung on the wall. People are also streaming in, many new faces among them. How lovely to experience this last month, when our theme was *Inclusion*.

This month we take a step deeper as we explore *Living Love through the Practice of Trust*. Getting people through the doors is just the beginning. Can we engage them enough to keep them coming? Can we develop trust, both newbies and long-timers, so that all are safe and supported? Can everyone truly trust that they belong?

And how do we do this? Members of the Worship Team ponder these questions both individually and in our monthly team meetings. In many services, Rev. Kevin creates a safe space for people to speak aloud their deep feelings and fears. Team members seek to model openness in their words and manner. Congregation members and friends step out of their comfort zones as readers, or as speakers in a tapestry service. Guest speakers bring fresh ideas and energy.

If you have thoughts about ways in which our Sunday services can enhance inclusion and build trust, we'd love to hear them. Feel free to speak to any Worship Associate or to Rev. Kevin at any time. Trust that we will hear you.

- Cheryl & Carol

## Upcoming Services

Continued from Page 1...

**March 30** *Knitting up the Frayed and Raveling and Broken Heart*  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Cheryl Morris and Tracy Pepper, Worship Associates

*In a review, Marilynne Robinson claimed both that "It is trust that knits up the world," and that trust "is a stuff peculiarly liable to fraying and raveling." This is the often-tender nature of the world and our relationships. We end our month with an invitation to hold this truth with care, and to live accordingly.*

## Soul Matters Themes



*Soul Matters Themes for 2024-25*  
*Living Love through the Practices of...*

March:	Trust
April:	Joy
May:	Imagination
June:	Freedom



## Monthly Evening Service

*Join us for an Evening Contemplative Service*

**SECOND THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH, 7:00 TO 8:00 PM**  
**GENTLE MUSIC BEGINS AT 6:30 PM**

This month's service: Thursday, March 13, 2025

It's a simple but moving service. We will sing hymns, join in meditation, and take part 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.



## Exciting Adult Learning Opportunities at UUCM!



### UU HISTORY

**A chance to get our historical bearings. Or at least a start on 'em.**

UU History is a 6-session introduction to concepts and people from our history. In this series, part of a Faith Forward program Rev. Kevin is sampling, we'll approach history from the starting point of compelling stories and personalities. We will explore the questions those people faced and make connections with our own lives and the world around us today. The overarching question is: how can history be translated into our religious life and practice? In addition to learning about history, we hope you will learn about yourselves.

Join Rev. Kevin Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 PM or Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 2:00 PM, at UUCM and on Zoom. Drop-ins welcome, and it's okay to mix and match Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please sign up here: [UU History](#).

#### CLASS SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:

- Mar 4 @ 6:30 PM or Mar 6 @ 1:00 PM - A Question of Love
- Mar 11 @ 6:30 PM or Mar 13 @ 1:00 PM - A Question of Experience
- No sessions March 18 and 20
- Mar 25 @ 6:30 PM or Mar 27 @ 1:00 PM - A Question of Resilience & Courage
- Apr 1 @ 6:30 PM or Apr 3 @ 1:00 PM - A Question of Identity
- Apr 8 @ 6:30 PM or Apr 10 @ 1:00 PM - A Question of Calling

## Deep Dialogue Workshop

**DEEP DIALOGUE ACROSS DIFFERENCES - SATURDAYS, MARCH 22 & MARCH 29: 10:00 AM - NOON WITH REV. CAT COX, M.A.T., M.Div.**  
*ON ZOOM, WHETHER FROM HOME OR FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE, WITH OTHERS AT UUCM*

How do we repair connections across seemingly irreconcilable differences and unresolved hurt feelings? Do we have to simply accept the loss of relationships - actual or possible - cutting the world into smaller and smaller slices of the people we can relate to? Our faith as Unitarian Universalists calls us to another, far

more hopeful and inclusive way. The path is available to anyone bringing curiosity and goodwill! [DEEP DIALOGUE RSVP LINK](#)

Join us for this two Saturday morning workshop series:

Join us **Saturday, March 22** for an even deeper dive than in our earlier introductory workshop into understanding the mindsets that drive differing beliefs and actions and the dialogue skills that enable us to bridge those differences. We really can connect in care and mutual respect, opening the way to solutions everyone can support.

**On Saturday, March 29:** (Open to current UUCM members) we will apply these dialogue practices concretely, addressing unhealed hurts still present in the life of the congregation!

Rev. Cat is a UU community minister. She has been offering her ministry of spiritual guidance, ***The Path of Joy: Awakening~Alignment~Action*** to individuals, couples, congregations and leaders nationwide for over 25 years. Offering guidance in the practices of deep listening, conflict resolution, and collaborative decision-making is at the heart of her ministry.

Rev. Cat has been a featured speaker at many UUA District and General Assemblies as well as at the Stebbins Institute. She is a recipient of the Margaret Fuller Award of the UU Women's Federation. Contact her through her website, [www.thepathofjoy.org](http://www.thepathofjoy.org) or at [Revcat1213@gmail.com](mailto:Revcat1213@gmail.com).

## UU Elevator Speech Class

**UU ELEVATOR SPEECH: WHAT DO YOU SAY WHEN...? A THREE-SESSION SERIES OR A ONE-AFTERNOON WORKSHOP**

UU Elevator Speech, with Rev. Kevin, guides participants through developing a short speech about our Unitarian Universalist faith. It is called an "elevator speech" because, on an elevator ride when someone asks you "what is Unitarian Universalism?" you only have a short time to make a meaningful statement!

*Offered on-site as well as on Zoom, choose either the Three-Session Series:  
Tuesdays April 22, 29 and May 6 from 1:00-2:00  
or the One Afternoon Workshop:  
Saturday, May 17 from 1:00-4:30*

UU Elevator Speech helps us understand the commonalities we share as Unitarian Universalists, and how to explain our faith better and more succinctly. Get ready to be UU in public and help spread the word in a way you feel good about!

Sessions include: It's Not A Credo, Writing Your UU Elevator Speech, Sharing Your UU Elevator Speech

Register [HERE](#). For more information, contact Rev. Kevin at [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

## Stewarding Guidance



### *Pledge Campaign Begins March 15: SIGN UP FOR A COTTAGE MEETING, AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS*

Get ready for this year's pledge campaign by attending one of the Stewarding Guidance Group's "cottage meetings" and luncheons the first three Sundays in March (March 2, 9, and 16 at 12:30 PM). These meetings are an opportunity to hear from members of Stewarding Guidance, Finance, and Strategic Planning about their activities and thoughts for 2025-2026 and to candidly discuss your thoughts about UUCM. Sign up! Clipboards are in the foyer on Sundays, or contact us at [stewardship@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:stewardship@uugrassvalley.org).

### *Ways to Pledge*

The 2025-2026 pledge campaign begins March 15 and ends April 15. Pledge cards are available at the cottage meetings, in the office, or you can make your pledge online starting March 15 at <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/give> or scan the QR code below with your smart phone or tablet to get to the pledge page.



## UUCM Auction

### *Save the Date for the UUCM Live Auction & Please Donate!*

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

**WHERE:** THE SANCTUARY (AND OTHER DOWNSTAIRS ROOMS)

**TIME:** 2:00 TO 6:00 PM

We're taking donations now, so think of what you'd like to offer. Get creative! Brainstorm the kinds of things that bring folks together, like...

#### **SERVICES:**

Paint a room, train a dog, airport rides, music lessons, pet-sitting, garden help, home repairs...

#### **MEALS:**

Brunch, lunch, theme dinners, high tea...or?  
Game nights, movie dates,  
Excursions and day trips, hikes, picnics  
Stays in special places  
Specialty foods, preserves, and baked goodies  
Arts and crafts, vintage and antique items  
*What else can you think of?*

#### **QUESTIONS? NEED SOME INSPIRATION?**

Contact any member of the Auction Team below!  
Laurie Bell, Lesley Champlin, Keith Johnson, and Susan Merrill



## Endowment

*Kathryn Young*  
Endowment Committee  
[Endowment@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Endowment@uugrassvalley.org)



*Janet Bullock's family and friends contributed a gift to our Endowment Fund in honor of Janet's life and service. If you would like to contribute in honor of Janet, it's not too late. You can go to [uugrassvalley.org/give/](http://uugrassvalley.org/give/), and click on the Janet Bullock Memorial Fund link....and if you like, you can write a remembrance or gratitude.*

*Simple Gifts* are always 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 special contribution. We would love to talk with you about other kinds of Endowment Gifts, too. We have brochures and packets to give you more details on *Legacy Gifts*...please let us know if you would like one.



## Membership

Laura Harter  
Leader, Membership Team  
[membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org)

The Starting Point series just wrapped up. What an engaging and rich experience. I enjoyed getting to know and bonding with nine newcomers to UUCM. Thank you, Rev. Kevin for creating a safe space for the eleven of us to explore and share what brings us to UUCM. Our experience was diverse; our willingness and ability to listen was inspiring. It was a great way for me to reflect upon my evolving aspirations and needs as a UU and a UUCM Member. It was time well spent.

Our five sessions ended with a potluck lunch as we learn about ways to get involved at UUCM from various UUCM Team Leaders. Thank you, Ruth Edwards, Shanti Emerson, Jeff Gold, and Cheryl Spaulding for sharing your experience and opportunities. Thank you for your warm welcomes.

The Membership Team invites you to consider being part of a Starting Point series during the year. Starting Point isn't just for newcomers. It is a great way to deeply connect with others as well as yourself.

As always, the Membership Team is grateful for all the ways you show up and contribute to our beloved UUCM.

Laura Harter, Leader,  
Jim Bair, Laurie Bell, Ruth Edwards, and Susan Merrill

Membership Team Meets  
the fourth Wednesday of the month  
at 2:00 PM at UUCM.



## Facilities Exploration

### Update on Sprucing Up UUCM

By Gail Schulz, for the FEC

We are all enjoying our lighter, brighter church home. Since we started this work in December, the foyer, hallways, Alcott Room and former Nursery have been painted, and new lighting placed in the foyer. This could only happen thanks to the great work from our volunteers and our one paid worker.

What's next? The Facilities Exploration Committee (FEC), Arts and Aesthetic Team and Ministry Council have been considering carpeting and new vinyl flooring. The vinyl will go in the Alcott room, the former nursery room, and the kitchen. New carpet tiles will go on the ramps, the hallways, office, and Channing room. That will be a big step, and the most costly item. At that time, we will have to make any repairs needed to the concrete sub flooring in those two rooms at the back of the building.

Meanwhile, we are only putting limited artwork back on the walls, while the Ministry Council and the FEC work to develop criteria for what goes up on the walls, and in what way: Do we have more bulletin boards or use shadow boxes? Do we limit what goes up, and who decides? We all want to reduce clutter and keep our building attractive and welcoming.

## Strategic Planning Group

### Retreat Planned for March

The Strategic Planning Group has scheduled a retreat in March to further explore and distill the themes emerging from both our research into previous plans and the very informative Congregational Workshop held in late January. High-level themes so far:

1. Strengthen connections within our Congregation
2. Deepen connections to the broader community
3. Grow our Congregation
4. Improve our infrastructure

Please note that there are a lot of aspects underlying each of these themes which we will be addressing in the retreat. Come to the cottage meetings this month for a short update on the SPG's process.

#### KEY DATES FOR SPG:

- April:** Send out a congregation-wide questionnaire for the strategic plan to seek input on members' priorities
- June:** Circulate a draft of the 2025-30 strategic plan for review and comments."

#### The Strategic Planning Committee Members:

Lesley Champlin, Charlene Dugan, Lindsay Dunkel, Jeff Gold, Laura Harter, Carol Richey, Allison Rivers, Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Alan Weisberg



## Parish Care

Gwen Eymann  
Leader, UUCM Parish Care Team  
[Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)



### PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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



## Lay Pastoral Care Team

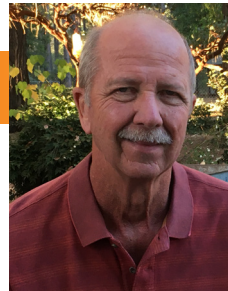
### Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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](mailto:LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org)



## B & G Team

Wally Holtan, Leader,  
Building & Grounds Team  
[B-G@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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*





Linda Siska, Leader,  
Art & Aesthetics Team  
[art@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:art@uugrassvalley.org)

## Art and Aesthetics Team

### MEET PHIL HORNING

### Our Latest Art Exhibition Begins This Month

I hope you all had a chance to see Lin Jovanovic's beautiful mosaic work while it was displayed in the library. We have so many talented, creative members of our congregation, and it is such a privilege to be able to share their work with our members.

Speaking of talented, creative members, our newest exhibition features the paintings of Phil Horning. Phil's work will grace the walls of our library for the months of March, April and May. While the date for his official reception is still to be determined, you are welcome to take a sneak peek.

Here is more about Phil in his own words:

I grew up back east in Pleasantville, New York, a suburb of New York City. My mom taught nursery school and did oil paintings as a hobby. As a kid I liked to draw and did a few paintings. In high school I worked for a neighbor down the street and built a dry wall and installed landscaping. The interest in art and landscaping led me to pursue Landscape Architecture as a profession.

After graduating from Syracuse I joined the Peace Corps in Iran and worked there for four years designing and building city parks in Gonbade Kavoods and then worked for the Iranian National Park Service in Tehran. During this period, I did drawings when there was time and continued this when I traveled for nine months through most of Asia.

Upon my return to the United States, I worked for the U.S. Forest Service on four different forests in California and took a special assignment to Tasmania, Australia, to set up a visual management system for the Tasmanian Forestry Commission. Throughout my career I have had the opportunity to hike and ski in a wide range of mountainous and forested areas and these experiences have been an inspiration to me.



PRESENTING  
*Phil Horning*  
UUCM ART EXHIBIT

IN THE UUCM LIBRARY GALLERY  
MARCH THROUGH APRIL  
ART RECEPTION DATE  
TO BE ANNOUNCED



Now that I am retired, I paint scenes that I hope capture some of the experiences that I find inspiring. Some of those experiences include my time as a Peace Corps Volunteer. In those cases, I take pictures of my 50-year-old slides projected on a wall and then store them digitally. Sometimes it is the special lighting as the sun sets, sometimes it is the composition of ridges and mountain peaks that attracts me. One of my favorite activities is downhill and cross-country skiing so you will see several snow scenes.

Typically, my photos of snow capture the bright white during the middle of the day, so I change the shade and lighting in the paintings to create more interest. In other cases, it is the vivid colors of fall, or the dramatic motion associated with a large waterfall that I capture. It seems to me that Mother Nature provides endless opportunities, both dramatic and subtle, to observe amazing colors, shapes, textures, and compositions, and I just try to paint a few of these examples to share with others. Please enjoy!"

- Phil Horning

## A Story of Two Remarkable People

by Martha Turner

Have you ever known two special people, from two different circles of life, both with a love of puppets, whom you felt needed to meet one another? This was what came to me a couple of months ago. Rather than thinking about it for too long, procrastinating, or worrying about how it might go, I set out to have a little soirée and introduce them to each other! This is the story...

We all know Anita Wald-Tuttle and many of us know that she and her daughters, Marcy and Sue, owned a magical shop by the name of the Tanglewood Forest Gallery. The shop was located in both Nevada City and Grass Valley. For over 28 years this shop inspired me, and so many others, to wander in, to be enchanted by the limited edition handmade fairies, pixies, elves and hand puppets that were to be found. Christmas time was especially magical. The shop closed in 2015 with Anita and the daughters on to new adventures. I've had the joy of knowing Anita now for about five years, since becoming involved with UUCM.

A few of you may also know the young and extraordinary Dalrymple MacAlpin from his wide repertoire of performance arts in the area and beyond. He is a person of many talents! He creates the most amazing marionettes from centuries old techniques he learned in Prague. The puppets sing and dance and tell stories with Dalrymple's operatic voice over. In addition to being a puppeteer, he is also a talented composer, artist, story teller and Avante Garde musician. I first met Dalrymple a few years ago when my goddaughter was playing with



Anita Wald-Tuttle and Dalrymple MacAlpin:  
A meeting of two creative spirits.



his earlier band. His creativity and talents rocked my soul! More can be learned about the many talents of Dalrymple at his website <https://www.dalrympleandthewilddaimons.com/>

His next local show is Rumpelstilzchen's Fairy Gold slated for October 23-26, 2025 at the Nevada Theatre.

It took a bit to coordinate a time that the three of us, busy with the stuff of life, could meet up. We had tea at my house along with a sweet morsel, and stories were shared. Anita had an old catalogue showing the whimsical creations from Tanglewood Forest and Dalrymple had a puppet named Dortchen Wild, after one of the six sisters that lived next to the Grimm Brothers. His newest marionette is named DJ Tele-Grimm Gram, inspired by and in memory of his dear friend and mentor Mikail Graham. He and Anita swapped tall tales and life experiences while our dog,

Dragon, tried to figure out what this large animated puppet was all about. The meet-up was a pleasure for all of us!

I am learning about taking action when inspired by an idea, like introducing two special beings, to have gratitude for this precious life, and to take time for sharing. Thank you for your taking the time to read this and enjoy the photos too!

• • • • •  
*Please note: This was a special story shared by Martha Turner. Jenny Dewey will return next month.*



## UUCM Endorses 24-hour Economic Blackout: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 FROM 12:00 AM TO 11:59 PM

By Gail Johnson Vaughan, Bending the Arc Task Force Member

### WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Do not make any purchases
- Do not shop online or in stores
- No Amazon, no Walmart, no Best Buy...Nowhere!

### DO NOT SPEND MONEY ON:

- Fast food
- Gas
- Major retailers

### DO NOT USE CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS

for non-essential spending

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Only buy essentials that are absolutely necessary (food, medicine, emergency supplies)
- If you **MUST** spend, **ONLY** support small, local businesses.

**SPREAD THE MESSAGE** – Talk about it, post about it, and document your actions that day!

### WHY THIS MATTERS!

- Corporations and banks only care about their bottom line.
- If we disrupt the economy for just ONE day, it sends a powerful message.
- If they don't listen (they won't), we make the next blackout longer. (**We will.**)



## Get out the Vote Postcard Update

By Gail Johnson Vaughan,

The critically important Wisconsin Supreme Court postcard campaign is almost done. It must be important if Elon Musk is pouring in millions to support one of the candidates!

There are still a few packets of 20 postcards waiting to be picked up. You can find them on the postcard table in the UUCM foyer. **We mail finished postcards March 1-11.** For those who don't know, early voting starts on March 18. These Reclaim Our Vote campaigns are designed to combat voter suppression. The Center for Common Ground is the lead organization. In Wisconsin they are partnering with Souls to the Polls, an impressive faith-based organization that provides rides to the polls and other important support to Black voters.

## NEXT UP: VIRGINIA

Campaigns in support of the Virginia State elections will begin in mid-March and write through April. Early voting begins on May 2; the election is June 17.

By now we have learned that state legislators are the ones who set the rules for voting in the state, including setting maps of an electoral constituency. Fair maps give each party a chance. Gerrymandered maps make it close to certain that one party has no chance to win. Those maps are used in congressional and presidential elections as well as state elections.

Virginia holds its statewide elections in years with no federal election. In 2025 the election will include races for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and ALL members of the House of Delegates.

Contact [gailjv@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:gailjv@uugrassvalley.org) if you are new to postcarding and would like to receive info on how to get involved. Those of you who are on the postcarding distribution list will be hearing from Gail Johnson Vaughan in March.

## ••• A Day of Resistance, Resilience & Action: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, NOON – 8:30 PM •••

UUCM will be open from noon to 8:30 PM to support your needs in solidarity with the 24-hour Economic Blackout. You are invited to come. Bring food to share or not.

### *This drop-in event of overlapping activities includes :*

- Continuous videos full of inspiration, information, strategies, and uplifting videos to recharge your heart and soul
- Facilitated conversation circles
- Peer support

- Political action activities: protest sign making, postcards, phone banking
- Music
- Social action book swap
- "No Kings" resource table
- Arts and crafts circle
- Drum circle
- Meditation room
- More...

*Feel free to share the invitation with friends.*

# Justice News and Activities

## Share the Plate

UUCM's January Share the Plate recipient, [Sierra Roots](#) received \$1172, 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 February partner, [Community Beyond Violence](#)



Our March Share the Plate recipient is Interfaith Food Ministry – Feed Families, Fueling Hope. [Interfaith Food Ministry](#) has been providing supplemental food as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in Western Nevada County since 1987. Over those 35 years, 1,000,000 seniors, families with children, and single adults have walked through our doors.

Several UUCM members and friends volunteer regularly at IFM, including the UUCM work group, which volunteers at IFM the second Tuesday of every month.

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



## Updates from IFM

IFM is experiencing an unprecedented increase in the number of people relying on them for food assistance—and at the same time, we're facing a significant decrease in funding.

This combination has created a critical challenge for our mission to ensure no one in our community goes hungry.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Donate:** Every dollar makes a difference
- Volunteer:** Your time can help us meet these growing needs
- Spread the word:** Share information about IFM to raise awareness.



## Hospitality House Donations

Our continued generous support of Hospitality House is greatly appreciated by the guests and staff! When you are enjoying refreshments after a Sunday service, take a peek into our Hospitality House donation bin - especially towards the end of the month. It is heartwarming to see how many items are in there!

### Needed Items Are:

- Towels
- Twin Blankets
- Men's Sweatpants and Casual Wear Pants
- NEW Pillows
- NEW (unopened) Toiletries - Shampoo, Conditioner, Razors, Soap

Please leave donations in the designated bin in UUCM's Alcott (refreshments) room.

*Thank you for your generosity, Laurie Bell & Keith Johnson*

## Green Sanctuary

### Green Sanctuary 2030 Task Force

Are you passionate about environmental sustainability and climate justice? UUCM is forming a Green Sanctuary 2030 Task Force, and we need your help! As we work toward earning Green Sanctuary recognition, we'll be developing projects that align with UU values—reducing our carbon footprint, engaging in climate justice initiatives, and fostering a more sustainable and resilient community. Whether you're interested in brainstorming ideas, organizing events, or simply learning more about how UUCM can take meaningful action, there's a role for you.

If you'd like to get involved or learn more, please reach out to [justice@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:justice@uugrassvalley.org). This is an exciting opportunity to make a real impact, collaborate with fellow congregants, and help shape the future of our community's commitment to environmental justice.



# 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](mailto: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, OFF-SITE -  
MEET AT 8:30 AM

Email [Walking@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Walking@uugrassvalley.org)

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](mailto: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](mailto:Men@uugrassvalley.org)

### SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7:00 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM

Contact [SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org)



### 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!

Our next meeting is **Monday, March 10 at 6:00 PM at UUCM**. We will be having a potluck and then Elizabeth Rose will show us some **Tools for Reducing Anxiety and Stress** that she uses herself.

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](mailto: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](mailto:Humanism@uugrassvalley.org).

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 5, at 10:45 AM** at UUCM, and our topic will be Situational Ethics. (Please view the UUCM website calendar for the most up to date meeting info.)

### FREE DRAWING SESSIONS WITH JENNY DEWEY

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

WITH JENNY DEWEY

Jenny is focusing on her health right now and regrets that she is unable to continue the drawing sessions at the moment.



### ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE

2ND & 4TH FRIDAYS, 1:00 TO 3:00 PM  
AT UUCM -ALCOTT (REFRESHMENT) ROOM

Come and meet with other UUs on **Friday, March 14 and 28** at 1:00 PM to work on your own art or craft form! Enjoy each other's company while working on independent projects. No teacher or facilitator. Contact: [arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org)

## Community Connections



### Spirituality Sharing Circle

By *Scottie Hart*

How shall I write about spirit? Almost by definition, things that are spiritual in nature don't go into words very well. Indeed, the first message in the Tao Te Ching is, "The Tao that can be named is not the eternal Tao."

That's probably the reason the Spirituality Sharing Circle doesn't describe itself as a discussion group – we strive to give our logical left brain a rest and listen for what our more intuitive right brain might have to offer.

The circle is not a meditation group, either. We enjoy sharing both companionable silence and conversation.

Is that confusing? Intriguing? Check it out on the fourth Saturday of the month, this month on **March 22 at 2:00 PM at UUCM**. Please let us know in advance if you'd like to participate via Zoom.

Have questions?

Contact [SpiritualityCircle@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:SpiritualityCircle@uugrassvalley.org).

*(BTW: This month it would make a nice pairing with the Deep Listening gathering, also on March 22.)*

## UUCM Ridge Road Litter Patrol SATURDAY, MARCH 8 AT 8:30 AM!

UUCM Litter Patrol, that's all of us... but those who choose to also participate in UUCM's Adopt-A-Road litter collection along Ridge Road, join the patrol on Saturday, March 8, at 8:30 AM. We'll meet in the upper parking lot of Nevada Union High School along Ridge Road. Wear work clothes and bring gloves and water. We'll have collection bags and litter pickers. Cheers and good collection to all. There's a baby stroller tossed off Ridge Road I have my eyes on.



## 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](mailto:BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org)

**PLEASE NOTE: Book Group is pushing their March meeting until April, and so on, to make room for the Stewarding Cottage Meetings on three Sundays in March.**

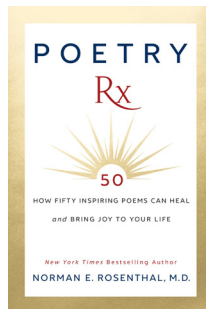


April 13, 2025:

### *Gretel and The Great War*

by Adan Ehrlich Sach, 2024, 224 pages  
Presenter: Theresa Houtman

A young girl wanders the streets of Vienna following the Great War. She does not speak. A neurologist concludes the girl has no exposure to language and writes her story for a medical journal, but gets a letter from a sanitarium patient who says he is wrong. The writer is the young girl's father and sends along a collection of 26 bedtime stories to tell her of the times in Vienna.



May 11, 2025:

### *Poetry Rx* by Norman E. Rosenthal,

2021, 380 pages

Presenter: Judith Gropp

This fascinating book explores the concept of poetry as a healing modality, coupled with poignant bio regarding renowned poets from global backgrounds across the centuries and infused with current vignettes from contemporary issues. This is one of several books I would bring to a desert island.

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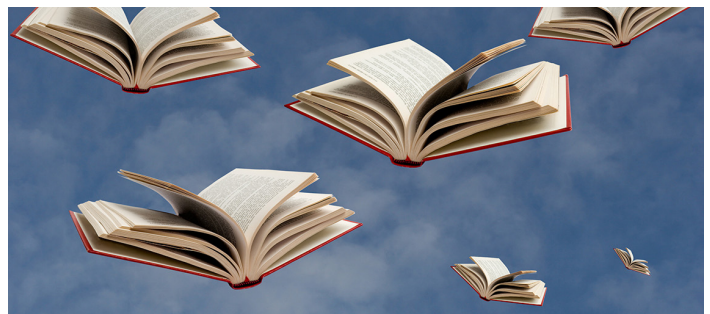
### [Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

.....

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



## The Practice of Trust

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

Our Kids' Connection program has an intentional design, one that is consistent with our goal of promoting feelings of **TRUST** in our young charges. One overarching design principle that permeates our program is best captured in the phrase **CHOICE WITHIN STRUCTURE**. Competing philosophies of education often are geared toward one or the other of those two constructs—choice or structure. In contrast, we believe that choice and structure are symbiotically significant in the ways that they help children develop trust in themselves, as well as in the people and practices that constitute our Kids' Connection program.

**Let's start with STRUCTURE.** Structure gives our program a recognizable and predictable form. When children can predict how each Sunday morning will unfold, they learn to trust the program and the people who run it. When new children join us, they are understandably unsure of themselves. They do not yet trust that this experience will be a positive one. But after they have visited with us a few times, we see them quickly getting involved by collaboratively building our altar, sharing a joy or sorrow, creating a pretend meal in our kids' kitchen, or making a piece of art at our table full of art supplies. Routines and rituals, by their very nature, are repeating, allowing children to understand on their own what is expected of them and how to fit in.

This ability to figure out on their own how to operate within the inherent structure promotes in our children a trust in their own abilities. Even when the routines and rituals are not ones a child particularly enjoys, the fact that they are predictable helps them cope with the challenge of getting through the activity successfully. Many, many decades ago, when I was teaching high school English, a particularly challenging student said to me with a defiant tone, "I really hate these vocabulary assignments you give us." Then, a brief moment later, his defiance shifted to a tone of acceptance when he said, "but they only come on Wednesdays, and I can live with that." He trusted me, my instructional program, and himself because he knew the routines surrounding those undesirable vocab assignments. Imagine how much more threatening those assignments would have been if he had not known when they were likely to pop up.

Now for **CHOICE**, what is its contribution to fostering children's trust in themselves, us, and our program? Structure is a foundational element in our program. Without it, or with an insufficient amount of it, the children's experiences in the program would be some version of chaotic. Chaos does not promote trust. But by itself, structure can also be limiting. We want our children to build on the trust that structure promotes by taking ownership of their experiences in Kids' Connection, pursuing their own interests, expressing their own thoughts, creating their own pieces of art or scenarios for play. When children make choices about how to operate within a thoughtfully provided structure, they learn to trust their own agency.



One ritual activity in our Kids' Connection program that provides many opportunities for the children to make meaningful choices within a well-articulated structure happens immediately when we enter our Sanctuary upstairs. The first experience of the day is building our altar. This activity is well structured; it must be the first activity of the day for the following activities to have a space to play out. There are a few basic rules to follow in that certain ritual pieces are always displayed on the altar, although where exactly they are placed is open for the children to decide. Beyond those few ritual pieces that always go on the altar, however, the options for decorating the altar are wide ranging. Our altars are like

snowflakes—no two are ever alike! Watching the children decorate the altar with their specific choices is like gaining a little window into their minds and hearts. Some of them are fascinated by the light of the candles and battery operated, mini-chalice flames. Some of them want the surface of the altar to be covered with stars and stones and beads and shells. Some of them like to place on the altar larger, more sculptural items from nature like pinecones and feathers. Some are fascinated by and want to play with the water we pour into the vessel for our joys and sorrows stones.

Our children make their own choices for the altar, place those choices carefully and strategically on the altar, and then step back to appreciate how their contributions helped to create this important part of our UU ritual. This adds to their sense of trust. They trust that they are important to us and that their ideas and creations are important to us. We trust them to be our co-creators of the Kids' Connection program. This is a bi-directional form of trust that is meaningful and genuine, for children and adults alike. Examples of how **CHOICE WITHIN STRUCTURE** permeate our Kids' Connection program are too numerous to begin to catalogue for you here. Suffice it to say that structure and choice are two defining features of our Kids' Connection program and taken together they are greater than the sum of their parts. You can **TRUST** me on that!!



## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: [uugrassvalley.org](http://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](mailto: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*