



the Mountain Chalice

Unitarian Universalist
Community of the Mountains

May/June 2016

UPCOMING SERVICES

- Each Sunday, services are offered at both 9:45 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. unless noted otherwise. (See May 8)
- Social hour is between the two services; please stay after the first service, or come early to the second one.
 - Religious Education classes for all children and teens are during the 9:45 A.M. service.
 - Nursery care is available for both services.

May 1 **Rev. Kevin Tarsa**
Candidating Service 1
Worship Associate: Lindsay Dunckel
Music: Choir

First Sunday: Please bring gifts of non-perishable food

Come find out what our prospective minister has to say!

May 8 **NOTE: One Service Only at 11:00 a.m.**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa
Candidating Service 2
Worship Associate: Bev Lyon

Following the service, members will vote on whether to call our new minister. (See Search Committee article on pages 4-5.)

May 15 **Rev. David Usher**
Flower Communion - Please bring a flower to share as part of the service.
New Member Welcome Ceremony

May 22 **Rev. David Usher**
Pass the Plate for Hospitality House

May 29 **Lindsay Dunckel**
Guest Pianist: Luke Raffanti

June 5 **Rev. David Usher**

This will be Rev. David Usher's final service at UUCM, and will feature the music of many members of the congregation.

*Summer Service Schedule Begins:
One Service each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
from June 12 until September 4*

June 12 **Rev. David Usher**
Picnic Service at Condon Park
Musicians: Banner Mountain Boys

This will be Rev. David Usher's final service as interim Minister, followed by a potluck picnic and barbecue. All are invited.

June 19 **Bev Lyon**
Pass the Plate for DVSA (Domestic Violence)

June 26 **Laura Zimmerman - Summer Solstice**

July 3 **Jordan Thomas-Rose**
Service in Celebration of American Music

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Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister

Minister's Letter

I offer my sincere appreciation for the many kindnesses you have shown me, and my heart-felt good wishes for your future prosperity.

See you in church! (For a little while longer.)

Rev. David

Dear Friends,

This will be my final minister's column in *The Mountain Chalice*. Whatever the outcome of the Candidating Week with the Rev. Kevin Tarsa (and of course I share your optimism about that), the rules about Interim Ministry require that I must leave you by the end of June. Many of you have kindly asked about my plans. I will be marrying Rev. Vail Weller on August 6 and living with her in her home in San Mateo. I had planned to take early retirement to give myself time to pursue other interests, but now I am also exploring some possible part-time ministerial opportunities. Whatever happens, I am excited by the next chapter which awaits me.

And I sense your excitement about the next chapter which awaits you. You are impatient to meet your candidate, to experience how he conducts worship, to get a sense of his character, his style and what he has to offer, and then to decide whether or not he is the minister you want, while hoping he decides you are the congregation he wants. There are few decisions more important in a congregation's life than the choice of its minister. Candidating week will be a full and fascinating week for all of you, and I encourage you to participate as often and in as many different ways as you can, and certainly to attend services on both Sundays.

But, as excited as you rightly are, I offer also a word of friendly caution. Rev. Kevin Tarsa might be your chosen one, but he is NOT the Messiah! No minister is. He will undoubtedly bring many talents that will fully vindicate the Search Committee's enthusiasm about him, but he will not please everyone all of the time and it is unfair and unrealistic to expect him to do so. Indeed, pleasing everyone all of the time is not the work of authentic ministry anyway. And you, as a congregation, will continue to have whatever weaknesses, foibles and internal tensions are uniquely yours. Who you are as individuals and as a congregation will not change overnight simply because there is someone else in the pulpit.

It has been my honor to have served as your Interim Minister since September 2014. The work of ministry is never complete, but I think we have journeyed well together in spite of, and sometimes because of, the tensions inherent in transitional change. There are so many people in this congregation it has been my true pleasure to know and work with; people of deep integrity, rigorous minds, generous and loving hearts, and willing hands.

Ideas for Services Wanted

By Laura Zimmerman

Do you have an idea for a service during the summer? Is there an idea or issue that is near and dear to your heart, or perhaps you have heard a good speaker and you would like them to share their message with the congregation? Or maybe there are pieces of music or readings that touch you in that special way.

The reconvened Worship Committee is planning the service schedule for the summer and beyond for those Sundays when our new minister will not be in the pulpit. Your ideas are welcome and encouraged.

Please contact a member of your Worship Committee (Gail Johnson Vaughan, Beth Karow, Willow Karow-Digangi, Bev Lyon, Benjamin McPherson, Anita Wald-Tuttle, Laura Zimmerman) with your ideas.

Drop-in Support Circle

By Janet Bullock

The Drop-in Support Circle continues to meet Sundays from 10:50 - 11:25 A.M. in the Anthony Room. Starting June 19, when our Sunday services switch to our Summer Schedule – one service each Sunday at 10:30 A.M. – our tentative plan is to meet after the service at 11:40 A.M. We will not be meeting on June 12, when the service will be at Condon Park, followed by a BBQ and picnic.

We have a dedicated band of people who take turns facilitating the circles. We are there for folks who need a little extra support that day. We are not a therapy group and we don't try to fix one another, but we listen; and we hope that meeting together is helpful. What we say is confidential. All are welcome.

Board's Perspective

Vision Day Review

On January 30, the Board and many "significant others" met for a Vision Day, a chance to reflect on accomplishments since the previous such day in February of 2015, and to look ahead to the immediate future. A significant part of the time was spent in three self-selected sub-groups looking at Administration, Membership and Stewardship. This is an edited summary of each of those groups. A more detailed report from each group is available on request.

ADMINISTRATION

GOALS:

A clearly defined mission about UUCM
Effective communication and education about governance
Opportunities for congregational input

ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR:

Two Town Talks scheduled:
March 20 and June 5
Congregational Survey on purpose and moderation of Forum
Board Meetings open to observers
Board members available on Sundays between services
Congregational conversation on governance, May 16

MEMBERSHIP

GOALS:

Ways to attract, welcome and assimilate new members
Ways to recruit volunteers
More programs for fun and socializing

ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR:

Appointment of Volunteer Coordinator
Circle Suppers
Continuation of New Member Orientation Classes

STEWARDSHIP

GOALS:

Stewardship understood as being about more than just money
To have a successful Celebration Sunday
To separate Fundraising from Stewardship, embracing Social Justice partners

ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR:

Annual Canvass focused on Celebration Sunday
Spring Wine Market in concert with Western Sierra Youth Build
Philosophy and Methods of fund-raising re-thought.

Congregational Town Talk

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 AT 12:45 P.M.

Come join us after the second service on Sunday, June 5.

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

David MacLeod, *President*
Janet Dunstan, *Treasurer*
Scottie Hart, *Secretary*

Members at Large:

Dawn Bateman, Kern Hildebrand,
Carol Wong

Board of Trustees meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1:30 P.M. in the Channing Room at UUCM.

Members and friends are welcome to observe. Please contact the president at least 48 hours in advance to speak at a Board meeting, or to attend if you are not an active member or friend.

Auto-Deductions and Online Pledge Payment Options

By Janet Dunstan,
UUCM Treasurer

Beloved Community,

Wasn't Generosity Sunday fun and inspirational? Conrad and the Banner Mountain Boys were fabulous and the treats were...well, a real treat. It took many hands to make Sunday so enjoyable. Thank you to all who helped make this possible!

It made me proud to be a UU, when Rev. Vail told us how our Fair Share Dues to UUA and PCD have changed lives of others around the country. Your generous pledges to UUCM also allow us to bring transformation to lives in our corner of the world.

Since many of you increased your pledges, I have been receiving inquiries on how to increase automatic electronic deductions effective July 1. Here is some information on how to do this, how to avoid paying fees, and how to set up new checking account/credit card deductions:

IF YOU ALREADY HAVE AUTO-DEDUCTIONS SET UP:

I will make any needed adjustments for you effective July 1 based on your FY16-17 pledge form. No action is needed on your part. The same checking account or credit card will be used as it is now. If you would like to change the method of payment or card expiration date, just let me know.

More Board News

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SET UP A NEW AUTO-DEDUCTION:

You can have your pledge payment deducted directly from your checking account or charged to your credit card. Just go to the UUCM website Home page <http://www.ugrassvalley.org/> and click on "On-line Giving". Then, follow the prompts. Or just call me and I will get this set up for you.

WHAT ARE THE FEES FOR THESE TRANSACTIONS?

Auto-deductions from your checking account have no fees for UUCM.

Auto-deduction for credit cards costs UUCM approximately \$3 in fees per \$100 donation. You are given the option of paying for part of these fees, but my recommendation is that you do not do this. If you choose to pay part of the fees, it actually results in both you and UUCM paying fees to our service provider, who gets more money this way. What a gimmick. If you would like to pay for some of these fees, just increase your pledge payment by about \$3 per \$100 monthly donation. The entire \$103 will show as your annual pledge paid and will count toward your tax deductible donation to UUCM for the year. A win for everyone except the banks!

To avoid fees entirely, stop credit card deductions, and set up a deduction from your checking account. I can also do this for you. Then, remember to stop your automatic credit card deduction.

CONVERT YOUR AUTO-PAY TO AN AUTO-DEDUCT:

If you have an auto-pay set up through your bank, did you know that UUCM actually gets a check in the mail for these? Save paper, postage, and UUCM volunteer time by setting up an auto-deduction from your checking account. Just go to the UUCM website Home page <http://www.ugrassvalley.org/> and click on "On-line Giving" and follow the prompts. Or just call me and I will get this set up for you. Then, remember to cancel your auto-pay.

Your generosity is a blessing to the Community, Nevada County, and our country. Thank you for your financial commitment and for sharing yourselves in making this a better world.

Search Committee

We Hear Music in the Air!

By now we hope you have heard our joyful news: We have a candidate, and we think he is wonderful. Rev. Kevin Tarsa comes to us with an extensive background in music, having served for 23 years as Music Director and then Minister of Music in another UU church. Most recently he served two years as Interim Minister at the Beaufort, South Carolina UU church. That congregation was enthusiastic in its endorsement of Rev. Kevin, writing that they were so sorry he couldn't stay to be their settled minister. He has a terrific empathetic manner, is committed to collaborative leadership and represents the kind of minister you all told us you were looking for. He is the Search Committee's unanimous, first-ballot choice, and we are his first choice – a wonderful result!

So now what? Now, dear congregation, **IT'S YOUR TURN.** We will have **CANDIDATE WEEK from May 1 through May 8.**

WHAT IS CANDIDATE WEEK?

This is the time Rev. Kevin gets to engage with many of you, and you will each have many opportunities to interact with him. There will be events every day from which you can choose. Several of these will be formatted like Town Talks, each one centered on a particular theme. Want to know our

candidate's views on worship? There will be a forum on that. Especially interested in social justice? There will be a forum on that. Caring and Membership? There is a forum for that. Also, Stewardship, Finance and Endowment.

There will be a special event for the youth, their parents and others with an interest in RE. Friday night will bring an all-congregational potluck dinner, and there will even be a jam session for musicians on Saturday afternoon. Details of all the opportunities will be published soon in e-Chalice alerts.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

will be the two services that Rev. Kevin will prepare: May 1 (with our usual two services) and May 8 which will be a single service at 11:00, followed by the congregational vote to call Rev. Kevin Tarsa to be our settled minister.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "CALL" A MINISTER?

For a minister to become our settled minister we must "call" him, and he has to know we really want him. So, we call really loudly. Our by-laws require we have a congregational vote to call a minister. There must be a quorum, and 90% or more



Search Committee, continued

of the congregants present at the meeting (no proxy voting permitted) must vote in favor of the call. However, even that may not be enough. Many ministers won't accept the call unless 95% or more of those present vote for the new minister. We are so happy with Rev. Kevin that we are hoping for a 100% affirmative vote.

As a minister who heard him at GA told us: "He is the real deal." We hope for your full support for Rev. Kevin.

YOUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Taylor Carey, *Chair*
George Dunstan, *Associate Chair*

Lindsay Dunckel • Beth Freedman
Keith Johnson • Bev Lyon • Corrie Silva

WHAT IF WE DON'T GET AT LEAST 90%?

On the one hand, that doesn't bear contemplating. But, you have the right to know, and if the unthinkable were to happen, we would be back where we were a year ago. The congregation would select an entirely new search committee, and the search process would begin again.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, please ask us. A member of the search committee will be present at almost all events during Candidate Week. Ask us in person or send one of us an email. We'll be delighted to talk with you.

As the spiritual proclaims, there is music in the air, and hope, and love,

– From your very excited Search Committee

A Note from our Candidate...

Hello, UU Community of the Mountains!

Warm greetings from Beaufort, SC, where I am serving the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort as its interim minister. After a set of wonderful experiences with your Ministerial Search Team, I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know more of you soon over a full and meaningful candidating week. Congratulations on the community you have nurtured and the journey you have made as a congregation over the past 20 years. I look forward to learning of your hopes and visions for the future.

I have lived much of my life in the "pinky" of Michigan, near Traverse City, where for 23 years I served as the Director then Minister of Music with the UU Congregation of Grand Traverse. Seminary study at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago led to a ministerial internship in Wayland, MA, an internship with the Michigan UU Social Justice Network, and an interim music and pastoral care ministry in Lansing, MI before these two years of interim ministry in South Carolina.

I am a UU religious naturalist, a non-theist with a humanistically mystical bent. (We'll talk.) I am inspired to nurture the ways that religious community calls us to our best selves, each and together, leading us both inward and outward. I am an introvert drawn to moving and meaning-filled collective experiences facilitated by music, poetry, art and the engagement of our bodies – services that reach heart and mind. My goal is to bring my knowledge, skill, talent and passion to help a congregation pool its wisdom in order to discern what love asks of us now, and to help us all "walk in the ways of [that] love."

One of eight children (and an uncle to twenty), I am a single gay man. I am fed and energized by creative and artistic endeavors of many sorts. I find special joy in making music with others, in taking a good long hike amid natural beauty, in taking photographs and in making and sending cards to people. I am grounded by gardening and morning yoga, nurtured by cooking and playing piano, and kept whole by chanting, biking, snowshoeing and holding long one-to-one conversations with deep friends.

I can't wait to learn who you are, and what moves you.

With hope and anticipation,
– Rev. Kevin



Reverend Kevin Tarsa

Membership

New Member Welcome Service

SUNDAY, MAY 15 AT BOTH SERVICES

If you have recently joined UUCM, or plan to in the very near future, please consider participating in our New Member Welcome Service. We introduce each new member briefly, present you with a couple small tokens, and welcome all of you. If you would like to participate, please contact Kathryn Young at 530-478-1329 or kathryneyounguu@gmail.com for more information.

May Circle Suppers Postponed

With all the social activities around our candidating week with Rev. Kevin Tarsa, we've decided to postpone the next round of Circle Suppers until next fall. If you'd like to host, please let a greeter know!

Annual Picnic Service

SUNDAY, JUNE 12 AT 10:30 A.M. AT CONDON PARK

Friends, members, visitors -- everyone is welcome at our annual outdoor service at the Condon Park barbecue area off Minnie Street in Grass Valley... just a few blocks from UUCM. Rev. David will be leading the service... his very last with us... and we'll have music from the Banner Mountain Boys both during and after the service, which will be followed by a Barbecue and Potluck Picnic.

Hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs and beverages will be provided. Please bring salads, finger foods, desserts or whatever else you wish to contribute. (Please no alcohol... we do not have a permit and our insurance will not cover us if we serve it.) We will need a few folks to help set up, clean up and more. To volunteer, please contact Kathryn Young at 530-478-1329 or kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathryn Young, *chair*
Kathry MacLeod, and Claire Miller

Committee meetings are at 12:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Anthony Room.

We are always in need of friendly people to help greet at the door on Sunday mornings, please let us know if you would like to help.

Contact: Kathryn Young, 530-478-1329
kathryneyounguu@gmail.com

Hospitality Team

We Have a New Coordinator for the Hospitality Team!

Three cheers for Marilyn Young, who has volunteered to coordinate the Social Hour between services! She will help organize the volunteers for setting up, cleaning up and bringing food to share for our social time after the service.

If you are looking for an easy and fun way to volunteer at UUCM, please consider becoming a Hospitality host or hostess. It's a great way to meet people and to serve the community, and it does not require a huge commitment, because it all happens when you are at Sunday Service. Just one Sunday a month would be a huge help.

We will be happy to train you – just contact Marilyn Young (hospitality@uugrassvalley.org, 916, 203-5962) or Conrad Sisk (admin@uugrassvalley.org, 530-274-1675). Thank you all for your service in our newly organized kitchen!

In addition to hosts, we always need donations of snack foods – both sweets AND healthy selections. If you can bring something, please let us know. You can go on line to our Hospitality/Social Hour participation sign-up page (**Make sure to click "SAVE" after you enter your availability on this form**): <https://doodle.com/poll/kd5f6egedsqwegir>

For more information about our Hospitality Hour, please go to: <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/hospitality/>.

If you are uncomfortable with the internet, or don't have a way to get on the worldwide web, you can call Marilyn at (916) 203-5962 and let her know that you plan to come help, and/or if you are bringing some food to share.



EVERYONE is on the Welcome Team

The Membership Committee is busy in the foyer each Sunday greeting newcomers, but we can't be everywhere at the same time. If you see someone you haven't met in the coffee room or the sanctuary, please make them feel welcome by introducing yourself and getting to know them. Thank you!

Stewardship Committee

Report on Celebration Sunday

By Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister

What a great day it was on April 3! The sun shone, and as everyone was arriving Taylor Carey and his fabulous Banner Mountain Boys were playing on the front patio. Inside, the sanctuary looked festive with balloons and the wonderful bird decorations put up by Janet Bullock, Lynn Whitson and Kathryn Young. The sanctuary was full to the brim.

The service itself featured great music, again by Banner Mountain Boys and also by Conrad Sisk playing two remarkable pieces on his electric cello. And then there was the Rev. Vail Weller who preached a wonderful sermon about how we at UUCM, like a murmuration of starlings, are part of something far bigger and more important than just ourselves, and how our acts of generosity have impact throughout the country and the world.

As an integral part of the service, everyone was invited to submit their pledge forms and then, treats prepared by Kia Hatch and her helpers. And ice-cream! And Banner Mountain Boys again playing in the sunshine on the patio.

If you missed it, you missed a great morning.

Volunteering at UUCM

Volunteer Coordinator

By Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister

Two things are true about volunteering at UUCM:

The first is that UUCM is not a service provider, with its members as passive "customers". UUCM exists and functions only because of the many ways in which its members actively contribute their time and their talent.

The second is that volunteering, serving with grace, is itself an integral part of the religious life. It is in the act of volunteering that one creates the very community that is so valued.

Bob Miller has graciously accepted an invitation from the Board to be our Volunteer Coordinator. This entails articulating the many ways in which members and friends can offer themselves in service – on committees as well as various one-off duties such as helping on Sunday mornings; and then recruiting volunteers for those positions and putting them in touch with the relevant people. *Thank you, Bob!*

Please help Bob help UUCM by responding positively to his invitations to volunteer.

Transition Team & Committee on Ministry

Transition Team Information

By Suzanne Ferroggiaro, Chair
Transition Team and Committee on Ministry

The Transition Team meets with Rev. David Usher as we journey through our Interim Ministry together. The Committee on Ministry is part of the Transition Team, so this is the group to contact regarding our shared ministry and congregational relations.

Our Covenant of Right Relations is UUCM's guiding principle. Please see the Covenant and the Options for Addressing Challenges on our web site before contacting us about attending a meeting: <http://www.ugrassvalley.org/about-us/covenant-of-right-relations/>

Then, if there's anything you'd like to bring to the team's attention, please contact one of the members below. Attendance is by prior arrangement only, since people may be bringing deeply personal situations to the team.

Suzanne Ferroggiaro	suzanneferro17@gmail.com
David Ferrier	davidsdrums@gmail.com
Allan Duncan	duncanallan@hotmail.com
Tom Wernigg	tomwernigg@gmail.com

Ushering Team!

Come Usher With Us!

By Melissa Ridgway, Usher Coordinator

Are you looking for an easy way to volunteer at UUCM and have fun at the same time? Newcomers and old-timers alike can offer their service by becoming an usher. It's a great way to meet people and to serve the community, and it does not require a huge commitment, because it all happens when you are at Sunday Service. Just one Sunday a month would be a huge help.

You can look over the usher information guidelines and we will be happy to train you for this wonderful job, just contact one of the following:

Melissa Ridgway (mmr13762@gmail.com),
Conrad Sisk (admin@ugrassvalley.org, 530-274-1675), or
Gwen Eymann (eymann@sbcglobal.net).

Usher information, including ushering guidelines and a link to the sign-up page: <http://www.ugrassvalley.org/ushers/>

Usher sign-up page: <https://doodle.com/poll/y7iac6vrke3rf3re>

Thank you all for your service!

Caring Committee

Caring Notes

By Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister

Several members and friends are in our pastoral thoughts.

LEAL PORTIS is undergoing chemotherapy for a recurrence of cancer, but remains as redoubtable as ever.

ERNIE JACKSON was in the hospital with pneumonia, but is home and recovering well. He would love visits and cards, but please call first before visiting.

ANNE LYON has had foot surgery. She is house-bound and would greatly welcome calls and visits and occasional rides.

JANET DUNSTAN has also had foot surgery, but is mobile and recovering well.

KERN HILDEBRAND has been much pre-occupied with his father who has been in the hospital with a brain hemorrhage but is recovering steadily.

PETER MUSSER has been accepted to graduate school at UBC Vancouver starting in Fall 2016.

KIA HATCH is back on her feet and cleared by her doctor after a hip replacement.

New members, MAGS and STU MATTHEWS are now a certified and licensed foster / adoption home.

SUNNY HOLMES has been in and out of the hospital with a recurrence of her abdominal issues. Please send her your loving wishes.

Former founding member, MAYBELLE CHURCH, died on April 2. Her Memorial Service will be at the UU Church of Sacramento on Saturday, May 7 at 11:00 A.M



The Mountain Chalice Caring notes come from individuals and from specific notes in our *Joys and Concerns Caring Book*. If you do not wish to have your words in *The Mountain Chalice*, please make a note in the *Joys and Concerns* book.

The UUCM Caring Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 P.M. We may be contacted via email at caring.committee@uugrassvalley.org or by calling Gwen Eymann at 530-274-7965 for more information.

CARING COMMITTEE

Gwen Eymann, *chair*
Barbara Chesnut, Maryann Hart, Robin Hart,
Jerry Jacoby, May Lawrence, Ann Lyon, Leal Portis,
Corrie Silva, and Lynn Whitson

Committee meetings are at 4:00 p.m.
on the second Tuesday of each month
in the Anthony Room.

If you would like to reach out to members
in need with rides, hot meals, home visits and
more, please let us know.

Contact: Gwen Eymann, 530-274-7965
eymann@sbcglobal.net

Worship Committee

Worship Committee Reconvenes

By Gail Johnson Vaughan

The UUCM Worship Committee is so happy to be back at work and joyfully welcomes our new members. The committee met April 19 and is already seven members strong: Anita Wald-Tuttle, Benjamin McPherson, Beth Karow, Bev Lyon, Gail Johnson Vaughan, Laura Zimmerman, and Willow Karow Digangi. We will be supporting Rev David through the end of his time with us, planning services for July and August, and getting ready to welcome Rev Kevin. Feel free to reach out to any of us.

AN INVITATION FROM YOUR WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Have you ever wondered how inspiring it would be to hear a particular service about an idea or issue that is near and dear to your heart? Perhaps you have heard a good speaker, and you would like to share his/her message with the congregation? Or maybe there are pieces of music or readings that touch you in that special way. There is an ongoing need here at UUCM for lay-led services – either to augment our summer slate or to fill out once-monthly programs not provided by our new minister. Your ideas are welcome and encouraged.

Please contact any of the members of your Worship Committee with your ideas.

Social Justice News and Activities

Social Justice Notes

By Keith Johnson, Chair,
Social Justice Committee

On April 9 Janet Dunstan, Yvonne Mills, and I attended the UU Justice Ministry's Regional Training in Stockton. We received a lot of practical tips about how to implement a social justice program at the congregational level. But perhaps the most interesting discussion was more theoretical; what is Beloved Community and how can we incorporate it into our social justice ministry? (For a more comprehensive review of this topic, see www.bethelove.net.)



The author of the term Beloved Community was Grass Valley's own Josiah Royce. Later, Beloved Community became the foundation of Dr. Martin Luther King's theology of justice. Contrary to popular belief, King did not see racial justice as an end in itself. Instead, he envisioned a radical transformation of our relationships which would create the Beloved Community. According to Dr. King, justice in the Beloved Community is "love correcting everything that stands against love." What does the Beloved Community look like and how can we help build it at UUCM? The chart on this page can give us some answers.

Compare the differences between the dominant paradigm and the Beloved Community. The dominant paradigm is political, while the Beloved Community is spiritual and religious. Fighting for our rights is the objective in the dominant paradigm; building right relationships is the cornerstone of the Beloved Community. Justice in the dominant paradigm is a system of rewards and punishments; justice in the Beloved Community is love.

Want to learn more? Please join me at the UUCM Justice Summit in Applegate July 16-19. Scholarships may be available from the Social Justice Committee.

DOMINANT PARADIGM	BELOVED COMMUNITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits itself to political views and realities Divides the world into "us" and "them" and the purpose of power is to control "them" "Rights" as the basis for social justice Puts things at the center Issues are seen as problems to be solved Reduces identity to status or role Reactive: driven by anger or fear Often understands this as for "other" people Focuses on changing the world out there Justice = a system of rewards and punishments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rooted in a religious or spiritual view that recognizes political realities There is only us – all of us and the purpose of power is to restore right relationship "Right relationships" as the basis Puts relationships at the center Issues reflect a way of life to be transformed Identity shapes us, but does not limit who we are Proactive: motivated by hope Engages for one's own sake, too Focuses on being the change we want to see Justice = "Love correcting everything that stands against love." (MLK)

UUCM Passes the Plate

One Sunday each month our plate offering is donated to a selected local charity. For the nine months of this current financial year, a total of \$6,740 has been donated.

MONTH	CHARITY	AMOUNT
July	Animal Place	\$506
August	UU Justice Ministry, CA	\$370
September	EAC	\$689
October	Habitat for Humanity	\$713
November	Hospitality House	\$772
December	Interfaith Food Ministry	\$954
January	Sierra Western Youth Build	\$1,028
February	Citizens for Choice	\$517
March	Justice Coalition for Water	\$513
April	Interfaith Food Ministry	\$678

Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepares Meals at Utah's Place

FRIDAYS, APRIL 29, MAY 20 & JUNE 17 AT 4 P.M.

By Leal Portis

UUCM volunteers make dinner at the Hospitality House on the third and fifth Fridays each month. We also leave food for breakfast the next morning. Breakfast foods have to be packable as clients have to take breakfast and lunch with them (except on rainy/snowy days).

UUCM does not have money in its budget for this endeavor, but rather is relying on the generosity of its members. Currently just a few folks are stepping up to the plate. It's more challenging to supply Utah's Place than it was in the past, as the Health Department requires all food to be cooked there

or come from a commercial kitchen. If you want to contribute, but are busy or unable to shop, you are welcome to just give Leal money toward the needed groceries as she doesn't mind doing the shopping.

Please contact Leal Portis at 530-265-3887 or portis.leal@gmail.com. Remember Utah Phillips was a member of UUCM and along with his wife Joanna was the founder of the homeless shelter.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Women's Circle in May and June –

SPECIAL TEA PARTY TO HONOR UUCM FOUNDERS AND ELDERS AND MEET REVEREND KEVIN WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 IN THE UUCM SANCTUARY

The Women's Circle has been asked to help organize and participate in an afternoon tea to honor our founders and elders, and have a chance to meet Rev. Kevin Tarsa during candidating week, Wednesday, May 4 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Everyone who wishes to attend is welcome. We also need people to bring special foods, prepare tea, set up tables and chairs, decorate, and of course.... clean up afterwards!

Please respond soon, and let us know if you are coming, and if you would be willing to bring some food, and/or set up or clean up. kathryneyounguu@gmail.com, 530-478-1329

WOMEN'S ANNUAL SWAP PARTY TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016, 6 P.M.

THE DATE WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!

We will meet at UUCM at 6:00 P.M. Please eat beforehand so we can start swapping right away! This is NOT going to be a potluck like usual.

Now that we've all "de-cluttered," it's time to bag up all of the items that didn't "bring us joy" and bring them to the swap party so they can bring joy to someone else. You can either bring your donations to UUCM on Sunday morning, May 8 or between the hours of 1 and 5 p.m. on Monday, May 9. If neither day is convenient for you, Barbara Barr has offered to store items at her home – please call Barbara to make arrangements at 273-6898. If you don't have anything to swap, please come anyway.... we have piles left over every year.

Having the items available *before* Tuesday makes our job a little less hectic as everything must be pre-sorted before the doors open.

IN ADDITION TO YOUR CLOTHES/SHOES AND OTHER ITEMS: Please bring shopping bags, clothes hangers and clothing racks for display (to be returned).

May and Donna also need help before the event with sorting and arranging merchandise, and cleaning up afterward, as neither of them has an abundance of energy this month. If you can do a shift on Monday afternoon, or Tuesday before the swap, or stay to clean up, please call or email May Lawrence at: 478-9438 or maylawrence@sbcglobal.net OR call Donna Foddrrell at 274-2309.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE JUNE BOOK SWAP & POT LUCK TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016, 6 P.M.

We will meet at UUCM at 6:00 P.M. Bring a potluck dish to share, and a book (or books!) that you are ready to pass on to a good home. Be prepared to tell what you loved about the book(s). Plan on perusing other's books and bringing one home with you. If you don't have a book to swap, come anyway.... there will be others who have lots that need new homes. Extra books will be donated to charity.

If you are NOT on the Women's Circle email list and wish to be, please contact Conrad Sisk, admin@uugrassvalley.org, 530-274-1675. He can add you to the list. All women are welcome whether members, friends or just friendly visitors! It's a great way to get to know other UUCM women.

Men's Groups and Book Club

From 8:30 – 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday mornings in the Channing Room, and on Thursday mornings at What's Up? Coffee, (1110 E Main St., Grass Valley), men gather to enjoy each other's company and discuss the issues of the day or whatever takes their fancy, in an open and free-flowing way.

In addition, a group of men meets to discuss books at 10:30 A.M. on first and third Thursdays at What's Up Coffee. These meetings follow the regular Men's Group meetings that start at 8:30 A.M. every Thursday. Contact Mel Berry at melnannie@yahoo.com or 530-559-0904 for more information.

UU Fellowship of Northern Nevada: Women's Retreat MAY 13 – 14, 2016

Kristin Famula, Connections Coordinator, UUFNN
membership@uufnn.org or 443-517-3371

Our Women's Retreat this year will be at Camp Galilee in Glenbrook, Nevada. This change of venue offers us lakeside views and a deeper connection to the natural world. Camp Galilee has a reputation for exceptional food and a welcoming environment. The sleeping arrangements will be more rustic and require four people to share a space. But remember, it is only one night!

The retreat will begin with check-in starting at 4:00 P.M. Friday evening and will conclude after dinner on Saturday night. The cost will be slightly less than previous years and will include the cost of Saturday night's meal. Please contact UUFNN Connections Coordinator Kristin Famula (see contact info in byline, above) to register or learn more info about this amazing women's retreat.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Conversation on Governance MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016, 7 P.M. AT UUCM

By David Usher, UUCM Interim Minister

Before the Transition Team intervened because of some inappropriate posts, one of the most lively conversations on the Forum had been about Governance. This is an important topic and very worthy of some direct person-to-person conversation. Rev. David will lead that conversation on Monday, May 16, and you are invited to bring your ideas and your questions.

Immigrant Day 2016 at the Capitol MONDAY, MAY 23 FROM 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

Join hundreds of immigrants and advocates from across California on the west steps of the Capitol, on 10th Street, Sacramento on Monday, May 23, 2016. Please see flyer for more information. 🐼 🐼 🐼

UU Summer Camp in Mendocino JULY 10 – 16 AND JULY 17 – 23

By Jennifer Taylor-Wightman

For those of you interested in the UU summer camp (the one Jesse and I attend) at the Mendocino Woodlands, it is time to register! The website that will give you all the info you need:

<http://www.ncuucc.org/calendar/family-camp/>

It is fun for families or individuals. The setting is beautiful, the people are great and there are lots of interesting activities for people of all ages. Jesse and I are going for week one this year and would love to see other people from UUCM! So check out the website and feel free to ask me any questions (2goatsrunning@gmail.com).

Russell Lockwood Leadership School JULY 23 – 29 IN RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA

The Pacific Western Region invites you to be transformed through innovative leadership within your congregation!

To view the 2016 Flyer and brochure in pdf format, click the following links: Flyer: https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/rlls_2016_flyer_0.pdf) and the 2016 Brochure: (https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/rlls_brochure_2016.pdf)

Invest in yourself and your congregation by engaging in one inspiring and intensive week this summer at Russell Lockwood

Leadership School (RLLS). One week — exploring the history, values, actions, inspirations and complexities of the Unitarian Universalist liberal religious tradition. One week — learning with other UUs from around the west. One week — sharing a wide range of study and spiritual practice focused on nourishing what is meaningful and necessary for Unitarian Universalist (UU) leaders who wish to be skillful contributors to our congregations and to our local and global communities.

Unitarian Universalist Tour to England

SEPTEMBER 27 –
OCTOBER 7

Rev. David will be leading a group of Unitarian Universalists on a tour of England, September 27 - October 7, staying in London, Oxford, Bath, Salisbury and Windsor and lots of beautiful places in between. This is something he has done several times before, not only for UUs but for all kinds of other groups.

Ask him for details, or see this link to learn more: <http://www.discovereuropelt.com/unitarian-england-27-september-7-october-2016/>

Immigrant Day 2016: One California



Join hundreds of immigrants and advocates from across California for a day of advocacy, education and unity. Immigrant Day 2016 will raise a unified voice in Sacramento in support of state legislative proposals that advance immigrant integration and prosperity for all Californians. UUCM is proud to be part of the California Immigrant Policy Center coalition that is organizing this event.

Please join us in bringing a faith voice to the capitol!

When: Monday, May 23rd, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Where: West steps of the Capitol (on 10th Street)



For more information, visit
uujmca.org/immigrantday



UUCM Annual Camp Out

AT SCOTTS FLAT LAKE

Friday August 26th - Sunday August 28th, 2016

FUN, FROLICKING, AND ADVENTURE AWAITS UUs



Come camp with us under the tall pines and play in the cool lake...

Daily Activities:

- * Hiking, Biking, Swimming & Boating on the Lake
(Bring your kayaks, paddle boards, or rent them from Scotts Flat)
- * Games
- * Arts and Crafts

Highlights:

Friday:

- 5:00 pm: Social Hour
- 7:30 pm: Fire Circle. Bring your Musical Instruments.

Saturday:

- 10:30 am: Group Hike by the Lake
- 5:00 pm: Drinks, Appetizers, and Grill Time
- 6:00 pm: Pot Luck
- 7:30 pm: **Again By Popular Demand: UUs GOT TALENT!!**
After Talent Show -Fire Circle & Sing Along Music

Sunday:

- 10:30am: Sunday Worship Circle in the Trees
(Bring your poems, readings & reflections to share)



Contact Beth Freedman
for sign-up & details:
bethannfreedman@gmail.com
(530) 575-9319

Adult RE Opportunities

Women's Spirituality Group Plans Service Project

By *Scottie Hart*

The Women's Spirituality Group (WSG) is a lively experiment with the model suggested in *"The Complete Guide to Small Group Ministry: Saving the World Ten at a Time."* There is much research to support the use of carefully focused small groups to enrich a congregation's feeling of intimacy, an important task for us as UUCM grows.

The WSG was set up to consistently follow this model. This type of group may focus on any topic or activity, meets at least once a month, and uses a format that opens with a centering reading and a personal check-in ritual. The facilitators are specifically trained in the small group ministry model, and themselves participate in an on-going facilitator's group for support and additional training.

One of the key concepts is doing service projects as a group. After a discussion of many options, the WSG recently decided to offer a "complete package" Sunday service as a gift to UUCM. On July 24 we will plan and execute the service itself and cover the greeting, usher, and hospitality needs as well. (There will be more specifics about this project in the next issue of the *Mountain Chalice*.)

Another important concept is the expectation that at least one new group will be born when this group ends (late July). There will likely be another women's group, and possibly a group with a different focus. If you would like to explore the special sharing that can happen in this type of small group (either as a member or facilitator), WSG co-facilitators Scottie Hart (272-5022) and Dawn Bateman (273-6471) would be glad to keep you in the loop as new groups form.

UUCM's Newest Chalice Circle: "How The Universe Works"

FIRST MONDAYS AT 1 P.M. OR 7 P.M. - ANTHONY RM

By *Jerry Jacoby*

Consciousness! Can it exist outside our brains? Some people claim consciousness is primary. Does that mean the brain is secondary? What happens to our consciousness when we die? Jerry Jacoby has formed two Chalice Circles to look into these questions, among others, and go where the evidence leads.

Choose to attend at either 1:00 P.M. or 7:00 P.M. on the first Monday of each month. If you are interested in joining, please e-mail Jerry at jacobyjj@pacbell.net. Both Circles are open, and there will always be an empty chair.

What does Forgiveness Mean to You?

MONDAY, MAY 9 AT 7 P.M. - CHANNING ROOM

Learning to forgive is one of the most challenging of spiritual values. What blocks you from extending forgiveness to others, or accepting their forgiveness of you? How do you forgive yourself? Do you have rituals or practices or mentors which help you to forgive?

You are invited to share in this two hour conversation about forgiveness. It will be less about forgiveness as an abstraction and more about our own personal journeys and experiences.



Youth R.E.

Claire Miller
Coordinator of Programs
for Children and Youth

UUCM Children & Youth Program

REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

for children up to Grade 6 continue during the 9:45 A.M. service. Children begin the morning with their families, and then are dismissed to their classes after the story. Nursery care for babies and toddlers is available at both services.

TEENS AT UUCM

Teenagers are always welcome to join their families in either service. There are also several "work opportunities" available for teenagers that would like to maintain regular involvement, and contribute their energy and talents to the life of UUCM. Talk to Claire if you are interested (truckeeclaire@yahoo.com or 530-205-5324).

The teen group meets weekly from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. on Sunday for OWL (Our Whole Lives). This is a comprehensive sexuality curriculum. Registration is now closed for this session, but if you are interested in finding out more about possible future sessions, please ask us.

KIDS' MUSIC NIGHT

First, Second, and Third Wednesdays of Each Month
from 5:00-6:00 P.M.

Kids' Music Night is a fun and lively exploration of a mix of instruments and voices, making music together and having a lot of fun. For more information about current schedule and agenda, contact Jordan (music@uugrassvalley.org) or Claire (truckeeclaire@yahoo.com or 530-205-5324).

ANNUAL FAMILY CAMPING TRIP - AUGUST 26-28

Save the date and sign up early for a fun weekend with UU friends old and new at Scott's Flat Campground. Talk to Beth Freedman for details (bethannfreedman@gmail.com or 530-575-9319). See flyer on page 12 of this newsletter.

May and June Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
APRIL			
26	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
27	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
28	Thursday	8:30 10:30 1:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Board of Trustees Meeting
29	Friday	11:30 4:00	Trip to Salam Mosque in Sacramento Dinner Prep at Utah's Place

MAY

May 1 through 8 is Candidating Week

First Sunday: Bring Food!

1	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 11:30 1:00	Sunday Service with Ministerial Candidate & RE Classes A Board Member is In Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service with Ministerial Candidate Youth OWL Program
2	Monday	1:00 7:00	How the Universe Works Chalice Circle How the Universe Works Chilice Circle
3	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
4	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Group Finance Committee Meeting Kid's Music Night Choir Rehearsal
5	Thursday	8:30 10:30 1:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Book Group – WUC Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
8	Sunday	11:00 12:30 1:00	Service with Ministerial Candidate Congregational Meeting to Call a New Minister Youth OWL Program
9	Monday	7:00	What Does Forgiveness Mean to You?
10	Tuesday	9:00 12:30 4:00 6:00	Meditation Membership Committee Meeting Caring Committee Meeting Women's Circle Swap Meet

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
11	Wednesday	8:30 11:00 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Kids' Music Night Choir Rehearsal
12	Thursday	8:30 10:30 1:30 7:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Board of Trustees Meeting Worship Committee Meeting
15	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 11:30 1:00	Sunday Service & RE Classes A Board Member Is In Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Youth OWL Program
16	Monday	7:00	Conversation on Governance
17	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
18	Wednesday	8:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting Kids' Music Night Choir Rehearsal
19	Thursday	8:30 10:00 10:30 1:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Social Justice Committee Meeting Men's Book Group – WUC Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
20	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
21	Saturday	9:00 12:30	Building & Grounds Work Party Building & Grounds Meeting
22	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 11:30 12:30 1:00	Sunday Service & RE Classes A Board Member Is In Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Congregational Meeting Youth OWL Program
24	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
25	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
26	Thursday	8:30 10:30 1:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Board of Trustees
29	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service & RE Classes A Board Member Is In Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service
31	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation

May and June Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
JUNE			
1	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Group Kid's Music Night Choir Rehearsal
2	Thursday	8:30 10:30 1:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Book Group – WUC Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
5	Sunday		First Sunday: Bring Food! 9:45 Sunday Service & RE Classes 10:50 A Board Member Is In 10:50 Drop-in Support Circle 11:30 Sunday Service 12:30 Town Talk
6	Monday	1:00 7:00	How the Universe Works Chalice Circle How the Universe Works Chalice Circle
7	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
8	Wednesday	8:30 11:00 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Kid's Music Night Choir Rehearsal
9	Thursday	8:30 10:30 1:30 7:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Board of Trustees Meeting Worship Committee Meeting
12	Sunday	10:30	Picnic Service at Condon Park
14	Tuesday	9:00 12:30 4:00 6:00	Meditation Membership Committee Meeting Caring Committee Meeting Women's Circle
15	Wednesday	8:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting Kids' Music Night Choir Rehearsal

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
16	Thursday	8:30 10:00 10:30 1:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Social Justice Committee Meeting Men's Book Group – WUC Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
17	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
18	Saturday	9:00 12:30	Building & Grounds Work Party Building & Grounds Meeting
19	Sunday	10:30	Sunday Service
20	Monday	12:00	July/August <i>Mt Chalice</i> Articles Due
21	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
22	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
23	Thursday	8:30 10:30 1:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Board of Trustees Meeting
26	Sunday	10:30	Sunday Service
28	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
29	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
30	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee

JULY			
3	Sunday		First Sunday: Bring Food! 10:30 Sunday Service
4	Monday	1:00 7:00	How the Universe Works Chalice Circle How the Universe Works Chalice Circle
5	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
6	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Group Kid's Music Night Choir Rehearsal
7	Thursday	8:30 10:30 1:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Book Group – WUC Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
10	Sunday	10:30	Sunday Service

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Street Address: 246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Sunday Services at 9:45 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

Telephone: 530-274-1675 **Website:** www.uugrassvalley.org
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

UUCM STAFF MEMBER

Reverend David Usher, Interim Minister
Conrad Sisk, Office Administrator
Jordan Thomas-Rose, Director of Music

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