

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

September 2017

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**Last Summer Service: One Service at 10 A.M.**

**Sept 3 Welcome Home!**  
**Rev. Don Baldwin**  
**Worship Associate: Chuck Champlin**

Learn what John Muir, Rev. John Wesley and our speaker Rev. Don experienced being either welcomed or unwellcome!

**Two Service Times return starting September 10:**

**New Times: 9:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.**

Each Sunday, choose to attend services at 9:30 A.M. or 11:30 A.M. Social hour is between the two services; either stay after the first service, or come early to the second one.

Religious education classes for all children and teens are offered during the 9:30 A.M. service. Nursery care is available for both services.

### SEPTEMBER THEME: WELCOME

*Come a few minutes early to sing!*

*This year we will expand our pre-service connection and sing two songs before our Sunday services begin, gathering our spirits and leading us up to the service start time. September 10 and thereafter, plan to come five minutes early to settle in and join your voice and/or your heart in song.*

**Sept 10 Welcome Is As Welcome Does**  
**Rev. Kevin and Kristin Famula**  
**Worship Associate: Bev Lyon**

*Come welcome one another, our newest guests, your full self, and the new UUCM year in these Full Community services of story, music and invitation. After a summer breather, Rev. Kevin and the choir return to active roles in Sunday morning services. Come strengthen your commitment to the active (spiritual) practice of welcoming all in your life.*

*And then plan to join UUCM members and friends marching with PFLAG (LGBTQ persons, family members, allies and friends) in the Nevada City Constitution Day parade that kicks off at 2:00 pm.*

**Sept 17 Rev. Kathryn Bert**  
**Worship Associates:**  
**Chuck Champlin with Rev. Kevin**



*We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Kathryn Bert to UUCM's pulpit. Rev. Bert is the newly called minister*

*of the UU Church of Vancouver, WA. During her 15-year ministry serving the UU Church of Greater Lansing (MI) Rev. Kevin was fortunate to serve under Rev. Bert's leadership for a year. He has invited her participation in the Installation service on the 16th and to speak on Sunday morning to our theme of what it means to be a people of welcome.*

**Sept 24 Seeing Beyond Hate**  
**Rev. Kevin Tarsa**  
**Worship Associate: Beth Karow**

*The progressive response to recent white supremacist rallies is loudly to decry hate, as if hate is the issue. But this keeps our attention and energies focused on hate in ways that reinforce it as the point of reference and feed the mistaken notion that the "problem" is merely within aberrant individuals rather than within a national culture that has relied on powerful discrimination from its very beginning. So, if decrying hate is not the path, what is? What might we welcome in its stead?*

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## Panning for Gold

Meanwhile, the work of religious community continues, in our beautiful and hurting world.

- Rev. Kevin

### What is UUCM's purpose?

This month members of UUCM will begin in earnest the exciting and vital work of discerning and articulating anew this Community's reason for being. The workshop on the 23rd is designed to surface people's experiences and values, the raw material that a team of people will draw on to create an initial mission-covenant draft to be refined in ongoing conversation with UUCM members over the coming months.

I have advised that the Mission be drafted as a **Mission-Covenant** (a notion championed by Robert Latham) - that UUCM create not merely a statement of purpose, but a statement that incorporates members' explicit commitment to that purpose. Not merely "this is what the community does," as if the Mission is separate from members, over there somewhere, but rather the more demanding and immediate promise, "this is what I/we commit to pursue together!"

This is how future members will know whether they want to and are ready to join. Are they drawn to AND are they willing to commit to work toward the fulfillment of the congregation's Mission? Existing members will be challenged to search their hearts for what inspires and calls them now, and to commit anew to the ends that the Mission names.

From there, ideally, every decision made will be guided by whether or not a particular action stands to help the Community of the Mountains fulfill its collectively discerned Mission. Yes, of course, community itself will remain important, but best, community made strong by shared commitment and purpose. Holding a strong, explicit commitment to shared purpose can also make room for greater diversity in the congregation, the common denominator not being other kinds of similarity, but instead powerful shared conviction.

I am excited by these possibilities and what they can mean for UUCM. I am looking forward to the process as well as to the end result of the Mission(-Covenant) Renewal work. (Great thanks to the team preparing and guiding the process so far!) I, too, though not a UUCM member, will need to commit deeply to the congregation's fulfillment of its renewed mission in order to serve you well. And I expect to be able to do so gladly.

### Rev. Kevin's Schedule

Rev. Kevin will be off and/or away on the following dates:

- SEPTEMBER 1-3: On Retreat
- NOVEMBER 14-16: In Boston with the UUA Music Leader Certification Committee
- NOVEMBER 17-19: On Study Leave

### Our UUCM Building Refurbishment Fund Drive is Still Going On... Please Donate BEFORE September 30th!

A special fund drive was set up this summer to raise money toward beautifying our church building. With hours of volunteer labor and donated paint, the kitchen, Alcott room, hallways, bathrooms, and more were freshened up. Now we are working on the entry, library and sanctuary. We need funds for paint, lighting, curtains, and more.

If you wish to contribute to this worthy project, please do so as soon as you can. The Refurbishment Fund Drive ends on September 30. Forms for making contributions will be available until September 30, 2017.

You can pick one up in the UUCM Office, or by contacting Wally Holtan at (530) 559-0050, or by emailing to: [uucmgv@gmail.com](mailto:uucmgv@gmail.com).

*Thank you for your help.*

### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday: 10:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.,  
 Wednesday: 4 P.M. - 6 P.M. and Thursday: 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
*Other times by appointment.*

Contact Rev. Kevin to schedule an appointment:  
[minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or (231) 883-1058



THE UNITARIAN  
COMMUNITY OF



UNIVERSALIST  
THE MOUNTAINS

BE LIKE WATER

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE INSTALLATION OF  
THE REV. KEVIN TARSA  
AS OUR MINISTER

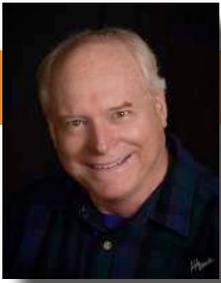
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 AT 1:30 P.M.

GRASS VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,  
236 SOUTH CHURCH ST, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW NEXT DOOR AT THE  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY OF THE MOUNTAINS

CLERGY, INTERNS, RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS AND SEMINARIANS  
ARE INVITED TO ARRIVE BY 12:30 P.M.  
FOR LIGHT LUNCH ITEMS AND TO ROBE AND PROCESS.

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 1ST TO CORRIE SILVA AT:  
INSTALLATION@UGRASSVALLEY.ORG OR (530) 648-0268



Taylor Carey,  
President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees

## Board of Trustees

Our monthly themes remind us of things we should practice everyday. Each month we try on a new one, see how it fits, and then look ahead to next month's. But unlike clothes, we do not take off the themes after trying them on. We add them to our spiritual wardrobe and display them whenever the opportunity arises. Last month we played. This month we welcome. Next month we will observe something else. But we do not stop being one to embrace the other.

We are whole beings instinct with goodness, mischief, pettiness, and magnanimity. We are inquisitive and bored, discerning and clueless. We are playful, welcoming and exclusive, witty and droll, clearheaded and confused, soothing and argumentative.

We are a welcoming community. It is in our DNA. We extend the hand of fellowship, of generosity, of good wishes to all who wish to join our quest for a better life in a better world. But occasionally, we bump up against the exquisite paradox of our own good intentions. What do we do about the problem of the homeless few who would use our grounds not for respite, which we embrace, but for spreading their waste and staging criminal activity?

What is the right thing to do for people who are not engaged in right behavior? The answers are hard to come by and it can be helpful to admit that absurdity is real and it is everywhere. I used to reread "Catch 22" in law school during exam week as a reminder that order and chaos are two sides of the same coin and that my ability to address issues raised by the mind boggling complexity of the questions depended on my ability to function in both planes. While solace may seem to lie in the profound, we would be remiss to neglect its opposite. When I find myself growing a bit overwrought or stuck in neutral I find some relief in recalling the chorus of "Deteriorata," a parody of Max Erhmann's "Desiderata," by Christopher Guest who reminds us that:

*You are a fluke of the universe.  
You have no right to be here.  
And whether you can hear it or not,  
The Universe is laughing behind your back.*

We are a welcoming community, but we are not oblivious to abuses of our generosity. Everyone is welcome to share what we have to offer, but we do not offer ourselves as an alternative to homeless shelters established for that purpose. Each of us may have an idea of what should be done for and about the homeless, but such challenges are not the central thrust of our ministry. We address them, of course, because

that is what we do. But, in fact, the central theme of our religious community is being developed as we speak as the Mission Refinement Team gathers together the elements of who we are in preparation for crafting a Mission Statement that will both define and guide us into the future.

As many of you know, we have initiated steps to limit access to our grounds by people who have abused our good nature. We have mounted locks, installed motion-activated lighting, and authorized the Grass Valley Police Department to enter our property to investigate suspicious activity. We have undertaken these actions reluctantly but in recognition that in our faith requires responsible action.

Unlike our fixed-dogma religious cousins, we have no checklist of answers to ease the burden of figuring things out for ourselves. We have no laurels to rest on. Our commandments are not matters of creed, but of an informed conscience ever seeking to distinguish the right from the merely orthodox. We will learn from our experiences.

As Mark Twain observed,  
*"A religion that comes of thought, and study, and deliberate conviction, sticks best. The revived convert who is scared in the direction of heaven because he sees hell yawn suddenly behind him, not only regains confidence when his scare is over, but is ashamed of himself for being scared, and often becomes more hopelessly and malignantly wicked than he was before."*

We take on our problems with thought and study. Our present corrective action will stand so long as it serves our purposes, which are counseled by our living principles. Stay tuned.

### UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

Taylor Carey, *President*  
Lindsay Dunckel, *Vice-President*  
Charlie Zimmerman, *Treasurer*  
Sandi Lauher, *Secretary*

**Members at Large:**

George Dunstan, Greg Fancher, Beth Freedman,  
Yvonne Mills

*Board of Trustees meetings are held on the second  
Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.  
in the Channing Room at UUCM.*

*UUCM members and friends are cordially invited to attend!  
If you wish to address the board, please give two days notice  
so the agenda timing can be adjusted.*

# Membership & Hospitality Committee

## New to UUCM? Find out more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCM

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Minister

New to UU and/or UUCM? Join Rev. Kevin for an informal Q&A conversation after Sunday services as announced by Rev. Kevin. (Or contact him any time for a personal appointment – [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or 530-274-1661.)

To find out more about Unitarian Universalism, and UUCM in particular, Rev. Kevin will be teaching the following classes this fall:

### UU THEOLOGY

Tuesday, October 3, 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary

### UU HISTORY: WHERE DO WE COME FROM?

Tuesday, October 24, 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary

### INTRO TO UU(CM)

Saturday, October 28, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at UUCM

**EVERYONE**, from new attendees to long time members, is welcome at any of these events. It's a great way to refresh your UU knowledge, and meet some other seekers!

To get on our list for upcoming sessions, sign up on Sunday mornings at the Membership Table, or contact Claire Miller at: (530) 205-5324 or [truckeeclaire@yahoo.com](mailto:truckeeclaire@yahoo.com).

## We'd Love Some Shadows...

### GIVE GREETING AND/OR USHERING A TRY!

By Kathy MacLeod, Membership Committee

A great way to "dip your toe in" to see if greeting or ushering is a good fit for you is to shadow an existing greeter or usher. You can find out more about what the jobs entail, and whether you feel comfortable in the role.

Greeting involves a relatively short time commitment on a Sunday morning. There are no meetings to attend, or homework. It's a wonderful way to meet new people. No previous experience necessary – just your friendly face.

Please contact me if you have questions or wish to volunteer: Kathy MacLeod: [horsenana@sbcglobal.net](mailto:horsenana@sbcglobal.net) or (530) 477-5824.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Claire Miller, chair  
Kathy MacLeod and Marilyn Young

Contact Claire Miller, [truckeeclaire@yahoo.com](mailto:truckeeclaire@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about membership, or are interested in joining the committee.

*We're always looking for  
friendly people... Come join us!*

## Snack Teams for September!

By Marilyn Young, Coordinator,  
UUCM Hospitality Hour

A BIG thank you to all the teams for generously providing a delicious assortment of snacks week after week for our coffee time. Starting on September 10th, we go back to two services, so the hospitality time will be between the services from approximately 10:30 until 11:30 a.m.

If you attend the early service, please drop off your offerings in the kitchen before you sit down for the service. If you attend the second service, please bring your snacks back to the kitchen by 10:30 a.m. (or earlier!), then enjoy the hospitality time between services BEFORE attending the late service.

Here is the schedule for September:

1st Sunday of the Month: (September 3)	A to E
2nd Sunday of the Month: (September 10)	F to J
3rd Sunday of the Month: (September 17)	K to R
4th Sunday of the Month: (September 24)	S to Z

Each week we need two or three "sweet treats" and two or three "healthy choices." Please remember to include foods for those with dietary restrictions whenever possible... gluten-free, vegetarian, etc. And it is especially helpful if you label what you've brought to help those with allergies or other health issues make good decisions.

When it is your team's Sunday, please let Marilyn Young ([marilyny04@gmail.com](mailto:marilyny04@gmail.com)) know if you will be participating, and also let her know if it's a "Sweet Treat" or a "Healthy Treat." We will send out a weekly reminder.

If you have questions, wish to help set up or clean up, or have something to donate, please contact Marilyn Young: ([hospitality@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:hospitality@uugrassvalley.org), or [marilyny04@gmail.com](mailto:marilyny04@gmail.com) or 916-203-5962.)



# Caring Committee

## Caring Committee Changes

By Anne Lyon, Chair, Caring Committee

Change is constant, we know and see. Some changes are welcomed, while others cause us to feel fear or confusion. Often it is our friends who help us meet the challenges of change, and to encourage us in adding our own strength and beauty to the newness. And so we face the coming fall, grateful for our gifts, hopeful for the coming season.

Caring Committee continues to support those of us in need or in celebration. Please let us or Rev. Kevin know when this is you!

We also hope that you will consider joining us in our efforts to assist our community. If you would like to help by occasionally driving to a doctor's appointment, preparing a meal, or other means, please let us know!

You may drop a note in the Caring Committee box, or contact Caring Committee Chair, Anne Lyon, at (61) 933-1618 (phone or text) or [mountan6@gmail.com](mailto:mountan6@gmail.com) with your contact information.



### CARING COMMITTEE

Anne Lyon, *chair*

Barbara Chesnut, Maryann Currington, Gwen Eymann, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman, May Lawrence, Corrie Silva, and Lynn Whitson

Committee meetings are at 4:00 p.m. on the first 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: Anne Lyon, (619) 933-1618  
[caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:caring@uugrassvalley.org)

# Building & Grounds

## August Update

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building and Grounds Committee

The August Work Day found a small cadre of workers who were very willing to get things done. It always amazes me to see a group of people work hard to get the scheduled projects completed. It is so appreciated by me and I know by the members, friends and visitors who come to enjoy what UUCM has to offer. Thanks to all the wonderful people who come monthly to serve our community.

Security at the UU is becoming tighter. We have placed no trespassing signs on the borders of our yard. The Grass Valley police have been consulted. They will give citations to individuals who are found on our property at inappropriate times. This workday the light in the backyard has been repaired and motion detector lights are being installed in the backyard. I personally find it difficult to secure our space so aggressively, but we have evidence of multiple attempts to enter our building and we have repeatedly found syringes, needles and human waste in our back yard. Our responsibility is to protect our parishioners and to provide them with a safe environment both during the day and at night and we will do all we can to try to make that happen.

Remember that we are having a fund drive for the sanctuary refurbishment that runs through September. Our task force had a meeting this month and we are starting to create a time frame plan. We are continuing our efforts to select the items that we need to purchase and will be sending out an update in early September. There will also be a request for "detail painters" for the actual work. That will be coming out toward the end of this year. It is an exciting time at UUCM.

Lastly, I promise I am not a broken record, but the UUCM monthly work day is a wonderful opportunity to get your toes wet in volunteering at UUCM. This time of year, there is a lot of outdoor work that needs to be done. This month we barely made a dent in the outdoor projects. If you are willing to help at UUCM, but Saturday is not good a time for you, please let me know. I am sure we can find a project you could work on at another time.

*A couple of cheerful crew members from a past work day...*





UU COMMUNITY OF THE MOUNTAINS

**MISSION** >>>

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
***Saturday, September 23, 2017***  
***for our All-Day Congregational***  
***Mission Covenant Renewal Workshop***

Greetings!

In case you did not know, we are getting to the exciting part of the Mission Covenant Renewal Process! Our workshop is right around the corner and we are thrilled with how it is coming together. You will get the chance to work with our amazing consultant Linda Laskowski. Linda is a lay leader with the Unitarian Church of Berkeley and is so very intuitive and talented in guiding us on this Mission. We imagine that our time together will deepen and expand the vibrancy of our intergenerational community. There will be various small group discussions where we each get to express ourselves and connect with one another more deeply. We hope to celebrate the congregation and the mission that has guided us to where we are today. We will generate concepts, language and images that will be incorporated into our renewed mission statement. You can expect to be engaged and inspired as we work together to identify our values and what our purpose is here together. This will be a very special day for UUCM.

We will gather at 8:30 a.m. The workshop begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Lunch will be served. We will be sending out more information as we get closer to the date. Please reach out to any of us on the team if you have questions in the meantime and please refer to our web page for more information: <http://www.ugrassvalley.org/mission-renewal-process>:

*Sincerely,*  
Your Mission Renewal Process Team:

*Beth Freedman*  
*Scottie Hart*  
*Jim Perkins*  
*Rev. Kevin Tarsa*  
*René Wiley*

# Social Justice News and Activities

## Social Justice Night: Thursday, September 14, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M. at UUCM

By Yvonne Mills, Member, Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee will host a Social Justice Night on the evening of September 14. The issue will be homelessness in Nevada County. District 1 Supervisor, Heidi Hall, will speak about the reality of homelessness in our own community. She will talk about actions that have been tried to reduce homelessness, and any tactics that may be implemented in the future. Heidi Hall will also discuss any actions UUCM may take together as a congregation.

The Social Justice Night will begin at 5:30 and end at 7:00. Pizza will be served at 5:30. We will have a chalice lighting; and, at 6:00, Heidi will give her presentation. At 6:30, we will have a discussion, and everyone will have an opportunity to ask Heidi questions. An action table will provide additional information about homelessness. Childcare will be available.

We invite everyone to attend this informative event about homelessness. Please learn what UUCM can do as a congregation to combat homelessness in our local community.

The Social Justice Committee requests that attendees please RSVP to the committee chair, Stu Chuang Matthews, at his email address: [stu@fourmajor.com](mailto:stu@fourmajor.com). Thank you.



## Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepares Meals at Utah's Place FRIDAYS, SEPTEMBER 15 AND 29 AT 4 P.M.

By Keith Johnson, Member, Social Justice Committee

UUCM volunteers make dinners at Hospitality House on the third and fifth Fridays of the month. We serve 40 to 60 people at each dinner. We also leave food for breakfast. If you would like to help prepare and serve meals, please contact Keith Johnson at [kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com](mailto:kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com). **Your help is welcome, but PLEASE notify Keith in advance as the kitchen is very small, and can only accommodate a small number of volunteers.**

UUCM is seeking funds to purchase food for the meals. Each dinner costs anywhere from \$150 to \$225. If you would like to donate funds for this worthy cause, please contact me at [kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com](mailto:kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com).

## Animal Blessings

By Carol Hyndman, Member, Social Justice Committee

The Animal Ministry is planning to have an animal blessing service sometime this Fall; the date has not been set yet. We are collecting donations for Nevada County Pets of the Homeless on the first Sunday of each month, when other food donations are collected for the Interfaith Food Ministry. Nevada County Pets of the Homeless provides food and services for our local homeless and their pets. Contact Carol Hyndman with any questions ([countrycattery@gmail.com](mailto:countrycattery@gmail.com)).



## UUCM Library Team

### Update on our UUCM Library

The Library Team is asking that congregants return any books they have borrowed, or donate any books that would be appropriate to include in the UUCM Library collection, as soon as possible, so the team can develop an accurate electronic list of the collection. Please leave all returned or donated books on the large table, not on the shelves.

September will be a busy month for the team, as they will continue inserting book plates, developing an electronic listing of the entire collection, organizing categories and utilizing the new bookcases. The team asks that you wait to check out books until the process is complete. The grand opening/dedication date is scheduled for Sunday, October 1st, between services.

The UUCM Library will contain books focused on resources of importance to UUs and not readily available in the public library. Periodically, there will be an update in the Mountain Chalice about new books, and requests for donations of specific books, or funds to purchase them, as we desire to add to our collection.

Thanks to all who have donated metal book ends! Due to your generous response, no more donations are needed.

# Soul Matters

## Soul Matters This Month

### Our September Theme:

*What does it mean to be a people of welcome?*

As you consider the theme during the month, here is **FOOD FOR REFLECTION** from the Soul Matters small group materials (adapted). Please use it if you find it helpful.

*Welcoming is most often associated with "bigness." We speak about "expanding the circle" and making more room. We talk about making ourselves larger through the practice of welcoming in new experiences and new ideas. But there is also the parallel and paradoxical work of becoming smaller, of taking up less space. And in some moments, that is the even more important work.*

*For instance, those of us who are white are learning that true welcoming of diversity just can't happen until we reduce and de-center our voices in diverse settings.*

*We also know that expanding community and welcoming newcomers requires right-sizing our needs and placing our preferences within a commitment to relationships of mutual support and generosity.*

*Welcoming regularly involves humility and willingness to listen and learn, stances that ask us to be mindful of the space we are taking up.*

*The great spiritual teachers remind us that the key to feeling at home in the universe is seeing ourselves as a small but precious part of a greater whole, rather than believing that the whole world revolves around us.*

*Downsizing and living simply allows us to welcome in more experience, adventure and peace.*

*And, of course, there's also the work of downsizing our egos enough to admit mistakes, ask for forgiveness and welcome in the work of repair.*

*Bottom line: There is a deep spiritual connection between the smallness of the ego "self" and the expansiveness of relationship. Sometimes we need to adjust our sense of personal scale in order to be open to, welcome in and receive the gift of "more."*

The Soul Matters small group packets also offer a set of optional **SPIRITUAL EXERCISES** to try if one wishes. This month, one of the exercises is to invite and welcome a friend to UUCM. (FYI - New Board member Greg Fancher is all over this! We'll look to schedule a special "Bring a Friend to UU" Sunday, though we might have to add extra services to do it!)

But you don't need to wait for that Sunday. Do it any time! It is said that between 70% and 80% of all first-time church attendees come because someone invited them. (If "church" is getting in your way there, I encourage you to focus on the "invited them" part.)

As our packet preparers note:

*This exercise may seem predictable, but that doesn't mean it's easy. We UUs have a complicated relationship with sharing our faith and inviting others to receive what has been given to us. If sorting through those complications is something your heart is calling you to do, then this exercise is for you. Don't rush into it. Take time to figure out why you want to invite someone to church. This exercise is really about you figuring out your reason. Once, you've got better clarity, go do it.*

For inspiration, and translating as needed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzrP1DNd0L0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UuMbxLT9pc>

## Soul Matters Themes for 2017-18

We have chosen to draw upon the Soul Matters monthly themes again this year, to focus a portion of our attention and intention. Throughout the life and work of our congregation we will place these themes in conversation with our personal lives, our shared journey, and all that is unfolding in our country and our world. The themes are lenses as much as subjects.

Our Soul Matters Circles (small, intentional groups), Sunday services and Religious Education efforts will draw upon the themes. We invite you to explore them and to share your own particular insight and wisdom.

Take a look at the list of themes. Got a book to recommend on one of the themes? A poem, a story, an essay, a quote or a TED Talk that might inform a service? Maybe a piece of music comes to mind, or a photograph you've taken, or maybe the image of a painting starts to take shape in you, a painting that might grace the cover of an order of service. Maybe it's a story of something that happened to you, experience you feel might benefit others. Or perhaps a theme calls to mind and heart a spiritual practice you have found helpful.

Please share your thoughts and ideas with Rev. Kevin, Jordan and the Worship Committee members. We would love to be informed by and to incorporate your wisdom, insight, artistry and intuition in our shared experiences whenever possible.

### *What does it mean to be a people of...*

September:	Welcome
October:	Courage
November:	Abundance
December:	Hope
January:	Intention
February:	Perseverance
March:	Balance
April:	Emergence
May:	Creativity
June:	Blessing

## Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

### *New Affinity Group: Speed Bumps of Life*

*2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 A.M.,*

*ANTHONY RM ANNEX*

*Like all addictions, \_\_\_ (Fill in the blank) \_\_\_ kills the spirit.*

Individual addictions often cover a wide range of behaviors that far exceed the use of drugs and/or alcohol.

*Speed Bumps* is a newly established support group where both men and women can come together in a safe and confidential setting to explore the many challenges of addictive behaviors. This is not a Twelve Step program, nor is the goal to fix or offer counseling, but a drop-in gathering in which to provide UUCM members the opportunity to share any number of outside influences that distract from the sense of the spiritual.

Whether you're already established in long time recovery, new to recovery, or just exploring the possibly, please feel welcome to join us every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10:30 to noon in the annex room of the UUCM Library.

Although we encourage folks to arrive on time with plans to stay the full hour and a half, we would rather you arrive late than not arrive at all.

For additional information: Carmen Riley (530) 272-2803, Scottie Hart (530)388-8612, or Gwen Eymann (530) 274-7965.

### *Drop-In Support Circle Has Moved SUNDAYS AFTER THE FIRST SERVICE, IN THE ANNEX OF THE ANTHONY ROOM, UUCM*

The Drop-In Support Circle has moved to the library annex, the back section of the library. We meet each Sunday after the first service for 35 minutes. Grab something to eat and drink and come join us if you're needing a little extra support or inspiration from other caring folks, or if you have some extra support to offer. The circle is not a therapy group; it is a confidential sharing circle, and is facilitated by congregation members on a rotating basis. (Even if you don't feel like talking but just want to sit among caring people, you are welcome to come.)

Circle Facilitators: (rotating) Janet Bullock (530-477-8760, [janetbullock41@gmail.com](mailto:janetbullock41@gmail.com)), Scottie Hart, Corrie Silva, Tom Wernigg, and Penelope Williams

Over the summer, there is only one service from 10 – 11 a.m. each Sunday. The Drop-in Support Circle will take place after services from approximately 11:10 – 11:45 a.m. On September

10, UUCM will return to holding two services each Sunday, one at 9:30 a.m. and one at 11:30 a.m.; the Drop-in Support Circle will return to meeting after the first service, from approximately 10:40 – 11:15 a.m.

### *Women's Circle in September:*

*MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017, 6 P.M. AT UUCM*

Please join other UUCM women for a potluck dinner and conversation on Monday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m. A reminder will be send out by email to all in the Women's Circle email list.

All UUCM women are invited to any Women's Circle gathering. If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please contact Kathryn Young, or send an email to Conrad Sisk at: [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) and he will add you.

### *Humanism Discussion Group*

*By George Dunstan*

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. until noon at UUCM in the Channing Room. All are welcome.

For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan (530-477-7635 or [gvgeode@gmail.com](mailto:gvgeode@gmail.com)) or David Briggs (530-274-9236 or [davidbriggs100@yahoo.com](mailto:davidbriggs100@yahoo.com))

### *Meditation Group*

Every Tuesday morning at 9, a self-directed group of congregants meets for an hour of meditation in the Sanctuary. Enjoy a time of inner peace and reflection with others. For more information, call Shelley North Gerson at (530) 272-8930 or [shelley10493@gmail.com](mailto:shelley10493@gmail.com).

### *Men's Groups*

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 – 10:00 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.

### *Men's Group Book Club*

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](mailto:melnannie@yahoo.com) or 530-559-0904 for more information.



## Full Community Education

*Kristin Famula,  
Acting Director of  
Religious Education*

I'm finishing this newsletter before taking off for a 9-hour drive to Oregon to be in the Path of Totality for the eclipse. Our car is loaded up with possible necessary supplies – extra gas for the car, extra water in case we get stranded, toilet paper, plenty of food. We've printed maps, downloaded eclipse apps, charged battery packs ...

And now we give in to whatever we might encounter – fully expecting the eclipse to be a magical experience, and also understanding that we might have 12-hour traffic jams, that we might not find a place to camp, that the smoke from the fires might completely obscure any view of the eclipse. But now we're just excited about having an adventure with all of the thousands of strangers who will be journeying alongside us.

It dawned on me that this feels a lot like the annual run up to our Religious Education year. We spend all summer and right up to the last minute, planning the details for a successful year. We recruit teachers, offer trainings, buy supplies, pick curricula – fully expecting that our RE year will be a transformative experience and also knowing that there will be probable bumps along the way. And so we give in to the beauty of our vision for RE, knowing that all of UUCM (and UUs around the country) can see the potential and are on the journey with us.

Below are some of the many details for the year. We hope you'll read through all of it, and see how you might take your place in this RE journey with us this year.

As always – if you have questions/comments/ideas or anything else, please do reach out!

With gratitude,

*Kristin*  
[education@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:education@uugrassvalley.org)

### 2017-18 Religious Education

#### NEW HIRE UPDATE:

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

This month we are working to hire a Religious Education Coordinator to manage our educational offerings moving forward. If you haven't yet checked out the job description and shared it with folks you think would be terrific in this role, please do! <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/re-coordinator/>

A coordinator holds a different role than a director. Often UU communities will hire a **coordinator** as their programs are growing, and then as their churches expand and their offerings deepen and mature, they might find a **director** to help them manage a larger portfolio which includes curriculum development, envisioning and implementing long-term vision ideas, strategic planning and support with all-ages worship. Our **coordinator** will manage current day-to-day programming, ensuring that the program is strong and vibrant all year. The RE Visioning Team opted to make this hiring decision based on our finances and our commitment to having continuity through the full year. Rather than hiring a director for half of the year and then scrambling once again, we prioritized having our programming professionally covered for a full year.

We mentioned last month that we are committed to being imaginative and open-minded as we continue creating an RE program that serves the needs of everyone and prepares us for the future. We truly hope that each of you will be courageous and consider new ways you might support our RE program. Ideas are below!

#### TEACHING TEAMS – GRAB A FRIEND!

- Teachers will have a team of folks to work with – you won't be alone!
- Teachers get a full lesson to use – you can be creative with your class or just use the lesson as-is!
- Teachers will be in the classroom up to two times per month (unless you want to be there every Sunday!)
- Teachers get the awesome opportunity to help people of all ages change the way they see the world.

We are currently recruiting teachers for all ages of religious education programming. Specifically we are looking for four people for our younger elementary-aged class, four people for older elementary, two people for our middle school class, and several people to offer adult RE programming (see more below).

#### LOOKING FOR WAYS TO EASILY SERVE?

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LIAISONS ARE NEEDED

Our programming is supported on Sundays by an RE liaison. This person helps greet new families as they come in, floats between all of our classrooms during the service making sure teachers have what they need, and answers questions of our families after the service. It's a fun and very important role! Please let us know if you'd like to sign up once per month (or more or less): [education@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:education@uugrassvalley.org)

# Full Community Education, Continued

## WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW TRAINING!

All are highly encouraged to attend one of our upcoming Welcoming Trainings! Each training will be an opportunity to learn about the variety of roles on Sunday mornings that help each person feel warmly welcomed. Even if you are unsure of whether you'd like to help out on Sundays, we encourage you to attend this quick training to learn more. Current greeters, ushers, and RE liaisons are especially invited to attend.

- **SEPTEMBER 3 AT 9 A.M.**
- **OCTOBER 15 AT 8:30 A.M.**

RSVP to Kristin ([education@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:education@uugrassvalley.org))

## JOIN A GROUP OF UUCMERS AT THIS YEAR'S POT OF GOLD CONFERENCE! FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 IN OAKLAND, CA

This fun day-long conference will gather Religious Education volunteers, RE staff, seminarians, Directors of Religious Education and Ministers to learn, share, connect, get support, and be inspired. The event runs from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This year's Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed, a long-time UU mover and shaker. Dr. Morrison-Reed says, "Today is an opportunity to focus on our children of color and have a conversation we don't often have. How do we support them as they navigate a multicultural world which while often seeming benign can feel unwelcoming and at times can be dangerous?"

Please consider joining the UUCM caravan for a fun, inspiring prep to our coming year. Contact Kristin for details ([education@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:education@uugrassvalley.org))

## UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- September 3: Welcoming Training - 9:00 a.m.  
Brunch bunch for youth; class for children
- September 9: RE Retreat - 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- September 10: Full Community - Ingathering
- September 17: Classes for children and youth
- September 24: Youth field trip to Reno;  
classes for children
- September 30: Pot of Gold – RE workshop in Oakland
- October 1: Full Community Religious Education  
Kick Off  
Parent Gathering after the second Service
- October 13-15: District youth retreat (all youth in the  
Pacific Central District, 9th-12th grade  
invited to attend) – registration deadline is  
September 28th: <https://register.pwruua.org/event-registrations/pcd-youth-retreat/>
- October 15: Welcoming Training - 8:30 a.m.

## UUCM 22nd Annual Family Camping Trip Update

By Beth Freedman, Camping Trip Coordinator

What a beautiful weekend we had under the trees at Scott's Flat Lake! We had 24 campers (including ten youth) and eight Day-Trippers join us. While a somewhat smaller group than prior years, we so enjoyed



our intimate time and made deeper connections with both new and familiar

folks. The weather was gorgeous. On Saturday, we enjoyed our hike along the lake and later floated to our hearts' content in the warm water. Our potluck was delicious (no surprise) and we had an entertaining evening with talent, games, and music around the fire. Thanks to Christy Barden for introducing us to a very fun story-telling game and Susan Merrill for her parlor game. Thanks to Bill Nolan who brought his gift of music and led us in our favorite campfire songs. Our time together finished with a Worship Service on Sunday morning with songs, readings, reflections and sharing our prayers for the world. Thanks to everyone who came and carried on this beautiful annual tradition!



# September 2017 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
<b>AUGUST</b>			
29	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
30	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		4:30	Youth Music (Beginner)
		5:00	Youth Music (Advanced)
		6:00	Mission Renewal Process Team Mtg
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
31	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
3	Sunday	<b>First Sunday: Bring Food for Pets &amp; People!</b>	
		9:00	Welcome Training
		10:00	Brunch Bunch for Youth
		10:00	Classes for Children
		10:00	Sunday Service
		11:10	Social Time
		11:10	Drop-in Support Circle
5	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		4:00	Caring Committee Meeting
6	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Humanism Discussion Group
		12:00	Committee on Ministry Meeting
		4:30	Youth Music (Beginner)
		5:00	Youth Music (Advanced)
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
7	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		7:30	Singing Meditation Circle
9	Saturday	9:00	Religious Education REtreat
10	Sunday	9:30	Full Community Sunday Service
		10:40	Social Time & "A Board Member Is In"
		10:40	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Full Community Sunday Service
11	Monday	6:00	Women's Circle & Potluck
12	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		5:00	Board of Trustees Meeting
13	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Speed Bumps of Life
		11:00	Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep
		4:30	Youth Music (Beginner)
		5:00	Youth Music (Advanced)
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
14	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Writers' Group
		3:00	Worship Qtrly Planning Mtg (offsite)
		5:30	Social Justice Night
15	Friday	4:00	Dinner Preparation at Utah's Place

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
16	Saturday	1:30 2:30	Rev. Kevin's Installation Ceremony Reception for Rev. Kevin's Installation
17	Sunday	9:30	Sunday Service
		9:30	Classes for Children & Youth
		10:40	Social Time & "A Board Member Is In"
		10:40	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
18	Monday	9:00	<b>Mountain Chalice Submissions Due</b>
19	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
20	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		4:30	Finance Committee Meeting
		4:30	Youth Music (Beginner)
		5:00	Youth Music (Advanced)
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
21	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		5:30	Social Justice Committee Meeting
23	Saturday	8:30	Mission Renewal Team Workshop
24	Sunday	9:30	Sunday Service
		9:30	Classes for Children
		TBD	Youth field trip to Reno
		10:40	Social Time & "A Board Member Is In"
		10:40	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
25	Monday	1:00	Governance Working Group Meeting
26	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
27	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Speed Bumps of Life
		4:30	Youth Music (Beginner)
		5:00	Youth Music (Advanced)
28	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Writers' Group
		6:30	Worship Committee Meeting
29	Friday	4:00	Dinner Preparation at Utah's Place
30	Saturday	all day	Pot of Gold - RE workshop in Oakland

<b>OCTOBER</b>			
1	Sunday	<b>First Sunday: Bring Food for Pets &amp; People!</b>	
		9:30	Sunday Service
		9:30	Full Community Religious Ed Kick-off
		10:40	Social Time & "A Board Member Is In"
		10:40	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		12:30	Religious Education Parent Gathering



# Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

**Telephone:** 530.274.1675

**Website:** [www.uugrassvalley.org](http://www.uugrassvalley.org)

**Two Sunday Services starting on September 10th:** at 9:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

**Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 8:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

### Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

Tuesday:	10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Wednesday:	4 - 6 P.M.
Thursday:	11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

### UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Conrad Sisk, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

Kristin Famula, *Acting Religious Education Director*

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

[minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

[admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org)

[music@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:music@uugrassvalley.org)

[education@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:education@uugrassvalley.org)

### TELEPHONE

530.274.1661

530.274.1675

530.274.1675

530.274.1675

