

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

January 2016

UPCOMING SERVICES

Each Sunday, you may choose to attend services at either 9:45 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 during the 9:45 A.M. service.

Nursery care is available for both services.

• • •

January 10 **Rev. David Usher**
*With hymns chosen by Kathryn Young
Classical piano by Tobias Thomas-Rose*

January 17 **Rev. David Usher**
With hymns chosen by Anita Wald-Tuttle

January 24 **Rev. David Usher**
*Guest Speaker: Dr. Basim Elkarra
With hymns chosen by Jerry Jacoby
Music by the Choir*

Dr. Basim Elkarra, Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in the Sacramento Valley, will be our guest speaker at both services on January 24. After the second service, he will lead an hour long Q&A session for everyone who wants to stay behind. Read more about Dr. Elkarra on page 9.

January 31 **Rev. David Usher**
With hymns chosen by May Lawrence

February 7 **Gail Johnson-Vaughn**
*Assisted by David Briggs, George Dunstan
and David MacLeod*

Please remember to bring gifts of non-perishable food for the Interfaith Food Ministry.

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Minister's Letter

Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister

Dear Friends,

For my newsletter column, I want to quote the reading by Ann Tyndall which I used, slightly amended at the end, to conclude my sermon on January 3. It says better than any words I might muster what my hope is for UUCM in this coming year.

See you in church!

David

This morning I walked the dog up the street. It was a perfect winter's morning. An icy breeze was blowing. Clouds were gathered in the sky. As the sun rose the grey white sky turned to rosy smoke. The sun finally appeared in the east. Nothing extraordinary, but the moment offered a blessing on the new day.

Such blessings have been given daily for more millions of years than we can ever imagine. I am reminded that what will get us through times of rapid change, hard times, times of uncertainty, dangerous times, will be our ability to be blessed and fed by abiding things:

The manifold blessings of the sun rising in the morning.

The song of a bird heard as if for the first time.

The stillness of night.

The smile of a baby offered to you as if she had been waiting for you.

The faithfulness of lovers and friends.

The hand outstretched in reconciliation,

Trembling, touching through the barriers of estrangement,

Healing again and again.

The persistence of love,

The persistence of love,

The persistence of love.

In this place, in this new time,

May we know more blessings than curses.

May our hands reach out more than clench.

May we be claimed more by love than indifference, more by hope than by fear or cynicism.

May the restive power rise up in us, grounding us and guiding us to the border of what is yet possible for us, those close to us, and the world.

– Ann Tyndall

State of the UUnion

*Sunday, January 10 at 12:45 P.M.
in the Sanctuary*

The Survey initiated last autumn by the Ministerial Search Committee provided some fascinating information about the state of the congregation, and this information will be available to prospective ministers as they consider their possible interest in coming to UUCM.

It is an integral part of the role of the Interim Minister to help prepare the congregation for the arrival of that next Settled Minister. As part of that preparation, at 12:45 P.M. on Sunday, January 10 he will offer his perspectives about the Survey, highlighting not only what he sees as UUCM's strengths but also those areas in which he thinks there is still some work to be done.

This State of the Union meeting, hosted by the Transition Team, will not be the same as a Town Talk, but there will be a chance for some questions and conversation. The meeting will last approximately one hour, with the Transition Team providing some simple snacks.

All members are encouraged to attend.



Board's Perspective

*Janet Dunstan
Treasurer, Board of Trustees*

Dear Members & Friends:

Each December the Finance Committee reviews our General Funds budget and projects our financial status through the end of the fiscal year (June 30). Based on this analysis, we anticipate a shortfall in income with only a small offsetting decrease in expenses. UUCM has a good financial base, so this year's shortfall is something we can manage. The Finance Committee and the Board believe the congregation should be aware of the likelihood that we will not receive our projected income for this year.

TOTAL INCOME SHORTFALL of \$16,200 is possible in the following areas:

Pledges (\$10,000 less than projected):

- New member/friend growth was projected to increase to 141, but remains around 130.
- Unpaid pledges from last fiscal year that were written off (\$5,800)
- Some members are experiencing hardships and will be unable to meet their original pledge
- A few members have left UUCM

Plate (\$1,600 less than projected)

Misc Income (+ \$300)

Fundraising (\$2,000 less than projected):

- Forecasts which were made in April will be adjusted downward.

Rental Income (\$2,900 less than projected):

- Garages are no longer being rented as storage units and are in need of repairs
- Projected rent from upstairs unit did not materialize

Expenses: Offsetting part of the shortfall in income is an estimated reduction in expenses of \$3,819, primarily in RE and Stewardship.

The revised forecast for FY 15-16 is a shortfall of \$12,791 compared to the original budgeted shortfall of \$352. Monthly financial statements are posted on the UUCM bulletin board along with the Board Meeting Minutes. UUCM has sufficient

cash to cover this loss should it occur. In the last four years we have had a net gain of \$27,310. With this carryover, we will not need to dip into our reserves of \$45K.

Money received to date for the Ministerial Search Fund is \$17,668 and is not included in our General Funds Profit and Loss. It is managed separately and is not part of the General Funds Operating Budget addressed in this email. This money will not be used to cover any shortfall.

The Board and Finance Committee are confident that we are in a good financial position to manage this possible deficit. Your generous pledges and continued participation in UUCM fundraisers sustain our member and outreach programs. For this, we are grateful.

Sincerely,

- Janet

Attending Board Meetings

Board minutes are posted on the notice board in the side corridor as soon as possible after each meeting. Members are welcome to attend Board meetings by prior arrangement, but are not permitted to speak unless specifically given permission by the President.

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

Rob Ferroggiaro, *President*
Amy Reneé Patterson, *Vice-President*
Janet Dunstan, *Treasurer*
Scottie Hart, *Secretary*

Members at Large:
Dawn Bateman, Kern Hildebrand,
David MacLeod, Carol Wong

*Board of Trustees meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 P.M.
in the Channing Room at UUCM.
Members are welcome to observe with prior notice.*

More Board News

Board of Trustees December Meeting Highlights

- The Board approved moving UUA Endowment funds to the UUA Endowment LLC
- The Board approved the appointment of Allan Duncan and Tom Wernigg to the Transition Team.
- It was determined that the annual congregational meeting will be held on May 22, 2015

Gratitude for Generous Unsolicited Gift

The Board and Finance Committee greatly appreciate the unsolicited gift of \$10,000 from Eileen Hale, half for general funds and half for the Endowment Fund. It is a wonderful statement by Eileen of how she values UUCM. Thank you.

Generous Donors Seed Ministry Search Fund

Before the rest of the congregation were invited to contribute to the Ministry Search Fund as part of the Beyond Categorical Thinking Service and Workshop on November 15, twenty one households had already pledged or given \$16,000 towards the Fund. An average of \$760 per household, and this was in addition to their already generous pledge to the annual canvass. Some of the donors wish to remain anonymous, but we wish publicly to acknowledge deep appreciation for all of them for their generosity. And you are encouraged to add your own direct and personal thanks to Beryl Beckwith, John Burnside, Taylor Carey & Kathryn Young, Rob & Suzanne Ferroggiaro, Phil & Suzannah Hart, Kern Hildebrand, Dorothy Hitchcock, Terry & Carol Holliman, Wally Holtan & Gwen Eymann, Joel & Theresa Houtman, Jerry Jacoby, Keith & Alice Johnson, Bob & Claire Miller, Leal Portis, Amy Renée and Mike Stolla, Helen Williamson and Marilyn Winters.

Congregational Survey about "The Mountain Chalice"

Thank you to the 54 people who responded to the survey about *The Mountain Chalice*. The results will be very helpful to the Minister and Board as they make decisions about the future content, style, frequency and function.

Join us for Vision Day SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 AT THE UU COMMUNITY OF THE MOUNTAINS

Following the success of the Vision Day held last February, the Board and representatives of all the major committees will gather on Saturday, January 30 for another such occasion. The purpose of the day will be to assess what we are doing well as a congregation and where there is cause for concern and potential for change or improvement.



Transition Team & Committee on Ministry

Transition Team Update

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.uugrassvalley.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
Tom Wernigg tomwernigg@gmail.com

Search Committee

Finishing the Year with a Flurry

(written in mid-December)

Sometimes projects have a lot of “hurry up and wait” time. The Ministerial Search has entered a “hurry up and hurry some more” phase. Exciting things are happening on several fronts.

As you know, we completed the Congregational Record (the CR) and the Survey and were then able to share them with each of you. In addition, we shared them with the Transitions Office of the UUA, and our CR is available for review by ministers. Our Packet, which is an extensive online report about our congregation and Nevada County, is out in draft form to our Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR).

By the time you read this it will be ready for the next step in the process.

At the end of December the search committee will have a three-hour meeting with Bob Miess, our MSR, who will consult with us on the next steps we need to take.

Shortly after that meeting we will be notified about ministers who have expressed interest in knowing more about us. The Search Committee will have the opportunity to review the Ministerial Record, much like our own CR, of those ministers. We will then exchange Packets with those in whom we have an interest.

As you can well imagine, this is an exciting time and everyone will want to know everything. Unfortunately, the Committee will not be able to divulge any information about the candidates, not their names, current locations or any attributes about them. Not even to our BFFs, spouses or therapists.

There are several good reasons for this rule of confidentiality:

- Ministers who are currently in a parish may not have yet told their present congregation that they are contemplating a move. Their parishioners are entitled to hear the news from their own minister at the appropriate time. Any leak of information could damage their relationship with their present congregation and could jeopardize our chances of attracting that candidate.



YOUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Taylor Carey, *Chair*

George Dunstan, *Associate Chair*

Lindsay Dunckel • Beth Freedman

Keith Johnson • Bev Lyon • Corrie Silva

- When the identities of candidates are known, it heightens the competitive aspect of the search process, possibly hurting collegial feelings among ministers and between congregations.
- It is harder to resolve differences within the Search Committee if the names are public, especially if congregation members are tempted to lobby for one candidate or another. We are human, after all, and it is better to resolve any differences we may have in private, without well-meaning outside input.

We will continue to be willing and able to discuss the process and where we are in the search process, just not the particulars.

As a reminder, Candidating Week will run from May 1, when the candidate will preach a sermon, through May 8 when the candidate will preach a second time. In the period between May 1 and May 8, congregation members will have ample opportunity to get to know the candidate better.

On May 8, immediately following the second service, we will have a Congregational Meeting, and all members present will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on calling our candidate to be our new settled minister. We recognize that this date is Mother’s Day, but our choices were somewhat limited. To go one or two weeks earlier would have conflicted with our District Assembly which our candidate, and several of you, may want to attend. To go one week later would not solve the problem of having such an important sermon on Mother’s Day, and two weeks later is getting very late for future planning both for the congregation and for the candidate.

In the spirit of our Fifth Principle we hope everyone will be able to attend on May 8 to exercise their right to engage in our democratic process. We think your mother would approve.

*Blessings,
The Search Committee*

Stewardship Committee



UUCM Services Auction

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT THE UU COMMUNITY
OF THE MOUNTAINS

By Bob Miller
Service Auction Coordinator

UUCM's Live and Silent Auction will be on Saturday, February 13th.

Like last year we begin with a catered dinner. We then rearrange the tables for the live auction which, if we follow the example of last year, will be a lot of fun. The silent auction continues on nearby tables.

You all know that the auction is a money-laundering operation. We clean out your wallet and soothe the brows of the finance committee. However, please don't focus on that. Rather come and enjoy an evening out with the finest people in Nevada County, eat a catered meal and enjoy the wine. Bring your friends. Kids are free. Then forget your more generous instincts and see if you can outbid some of the fat cats for a dinner, day out, aspidistra or whatever.

Let's hope you are a successful bidder on a few items. You then get to join others in small groups for dinner, hiking, garden parties, boating, workshops and much more. We also expect to have a unique selection of lower cost exceptional value items. We are currently auctioning David Usher at a starting bid of \$2.95.



Be creative in coming up with a service to offer. If your mind is a blank then contact one of our consultants. They are standing by waiting for your call:

Lin Jovanović
Dave Canan
Laura and Charlie Zimmerman

linmosaic@yahoo.com, 530-798-4773
ddcanan@outlook.com
cezwho99@yahoo.com
650-722-8194

Check the website frequently <http://www.togetherauction.com/uucm> to see what's available.

You will be delighted to know you will receive regular updates via email.

More info at: <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/event-items/services-auction/>



Ushering Update

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

Thank you all for your service!

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

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

"We have a long, long way to go. So let us hasten along the road, the road of human tenderness and generosity. Groping, we may find one another's hands in the dark."

- Emily Greene Balch, Nobel Peace Laureate

Membership and Hospitality

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathryn Young, *chair*

Rebecca Ebeling, Kathy MacLeod, and Claire Miller

Committee meetings are from 5:15 to 6:30 P.M. on the second Wednesday 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
kathyneyounguu@gmail.com

trained, needed supplies are found, and so forth. We do need a couple of people to be the "glue" for a while so we may enter the 2016 with a "refreshed" process. Please consider helping with what can be a very fun and enjoyable role – think about teaming up with someone else for this role. Our office administrator, Conrad Sisk, has an online tool available for us to make this task much easier - the idea is to rotate both facilitators and team members. We would like to involve as many congregants as possible - many hands make light work!!

WHAT ELSE CAN OUR HOSPITALITY TEAM MEMBERS DO?

Yes, they will get the coffee made and ensure that hospitality does not fall on just a few good souls – we would love to have a very high percentage of our active congregants serve on Hospitality Teams. But more importantly, they give our fellowship other benefits:

CONNECTION -

New members of each Team can connect with a subset of all congregants; all of us at once on Sunday mornings can be overwhelming.

FRIENDSHIP -

Team members can get to know one another better; you can learn a lot about two or three other people while making coffee and putting out food with them.

EMPOWERMENT -

People on Teams feel they "own" the building; they know where things are and how they work, and can creatively solve problems when they arise.

LEADERSHIP -

Being on a Team lets people try minor roles as leaders; some go on to enjoy larger responsibilities such as being a Team Facilitator.

ATMOSPHERE -

Sunday mornings are friendly and lively at UUCM; perhaps our enthusiasm overwhelms shy visitors, but at least few people get ignored! We have FUN!

MEMORIES -

We create fellowship memories together as a community.

If you have any questions regarding serving on a Hospitality Team or as an initial Hospitality Facilitator, please contact hospitality@uugrassvalley.org or call Kathryn Young, UUCM Membership Chair at 530-478-1329.

"We can do no great things... only small things with great love."

- Mother Theresa

Considering Membership at UUCM?

The next class for those considering becoming a member at UUCM will be held on Saturday, January 23rd from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. If you are interested in becoming a member, or just curious about our community, please let someone at the Greeting table know.

The class includes a chance to share your personal spiritual journey, meet fellow seekers, eat a meal together, tour our building and, of course, find out more about our community and what it means to become a member.

Circle Suppers are Happening!

Thank you to all the generous hosts who are holding Circle Supper potlucks at their homes this month! We know everyone will have a great time! Enjoy! We'll be doing it again in a few months, so if you would like to host next time, let someone on the Membership committee know!

UUCM Hospitality and Fellowship in the New Year!

If you have helped, are helping, or would like to help with UUCM's social "fellowship" hour, thank you for the gift of your time and talents and for making our church a friendly place! Hospitality Team members provide important service contributions that are very important to the success of our church. The fellowship time between the services is a chance for our community visitors and members to get to know one another, and your help with the refreshments, setup and cleanup provides a cheerful atmosphere in which to share.

HOSPITALITY TEAM FACILITATOR ROLE

Hospitality Team Facilitators supervise on Sunday mornings to make sure that all the tasks are covered, new people are

Caring Committee

Pastoral Care Notes

By Rev. David Usher

Each Sunday the Joys & Sorrow book is available for people to enter something they wish brought to the attention of the congregation in the minister's Pastoral Prayer. Inclusion in that prayer is much more possible and pertinent when the person writing it signs their full name, and also when it is in reference to a particular person. General appreciations of the nice weather, for example, do not lend themselves so well to inclusion, nor do unsigned and unnamed references to "my mother-in-law."

We have been saddened by the death of **Bill Toensing** in November, who never recovered consciousness while undergoing major heart surgery. As yet, no arrangements have been made for a Memorial Service, but an announcement will be made as soon as any details are known.

Joys and Sorrows which have been publicly shared in the past several weeks include:

The mother of **Paul Elias'** daughter-in-law died in mid-November.

A dear friend of **Suzanne Ferrogiaro** is struggling with advanced ovarian and breast cancer. Meanwhile, Suzanne and Rob continue to be preoccupied with the aftermath of his sister's stroke.

Sheila Myers had surgery in early December and is recuperating at home.

Allan Duncan's daughter-in-law is enduring a difficult pregnancy.

Earl Dawson, a friend of **Sharon Kennedi**, died in mid-November.

Sunny Holmes was hospitalized for a while following emergency surgery for a bowel obstruction.

Don Foster has been hampered by illness which leaves him dizzy and unable to come to UUCM.

Bev Lyon's son is coming to terms with his father's critical illness.

Fran Yankauer, a friend of those with connections with the UU congregation in Sacramento, died in late December.

Beth Karow continues to struggle with debilitating back pain.

To all of these, we extend our sympathies and care.

And to **Gail Johnson Vaughan** we offer congratulations on her transition to Director Emeritus of *Families Now*, the fostering charity she has spear-headed for so many years.

Thank You from Susan Sanford

Dear UUCM,

My deep thanks to all who have held my family and me in your warm and loving thoughts this past year. We have felt the support.

My sweetie Charlie's beloved son, Matt Chisholm, passed away on Dec. 21, and my dear cousin, Shelley McGraw, passed away two days before Thanksgiving.

*With love and appreciation,
Susan Sanford*

Robert Edward Tallmon

Robert Edward Tallmon passed away Dec 17, 2015, after a full life of teaching, singing, cartooning, fishing and playing poker (rather poorly). Bob was born to Violet and Raymond Tallmon in Arbuckle, CA. He is survived by sons Stuart and David, granddaughter Stella, and partner Joan Fisher.

Bob graduated from Sac State where he was given the Alumni Outstanding Senior Award. (Clearly NOT because of his GPA alone.) He taught and counseled students at Downey HS, Grace Davis HS, and Encina HS. His last and longest job was at American River College where he moonlighted on cornet in a supremely mediocre faculty jazz band. Bob somehow earned his EdD along the way. He won state and national recognition for his cartoons in support of teachers' concerns. A memorial will be held at Jackson Catering and Events, 1120 Fulton Ave, Sacramento, on January 10, 1:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American River Retired Faculty Association Scholarship Fund.

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

Social Justice News & Activities

GREEN Power Points

By Anita Wald-Tuttle, Chair,

As rapid population growth in developing countries puts stress on food, water, and ecosystems, environmental problems are spreading. One in five developing countries will face water shortages by 2030 if not before. According to my January, 2009 Page a Day calendar, by 2010 China was expected to have 90 times the number of cars it had in 1990, and it will probably have more cars than America by 2030. India faces a similar auto explosion. (Anyone want to research this using 2015 data for these three countries?)

Though our lives may seem worlds apart, we do share the same planet. Consider helping to lift someone out of poverty and helping the planet at the same time by making a microloan to an entrepreneur who's committed to sustainable farming or another environmentally sound pursuit. Find your match at www.kiva.org or have a conversation with our own Keith Johnson.

And keep an eye and ear out for ways you can help to promote the good things the Paris conference was pushing for.

Here's to a cleaner year in 2016!! Happy New Year!!!

These ideas excerpted from Page-A-Day Calendar for 2009

Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepares Meals at Utah's Place FRIDAY, JANUARY 15 AND 29 AT 4:00 P.M.

By Leal Portis

January has five Fridays so UUCM is responsible for dinner on January 15 and 29. We also leave food for breakfast the next morning. Breakfast foods have to be packable as they 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. Some folks do not care to provide food for our standard menu so give Leal money for shopping. This is acceptable as Leal does not mind shopping.

Please figure out how you can help and 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.



Dr. Basim Elkarra to be Guest Speaker

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24
AT 9:45 AND
11:30 A.M. SERVICES**

Dr. Basim Elkarra, Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in the Sacramento Valley, will be our guest speaker at both services on January 24. After the second service, he will lead an hour long Q&A session for everyone who wants to stay behind.

At a time when political demagoguery is fueling anti-Islamic hysteria, when ignorance about Islam allows this shameless discrimination and victimization, when fellow citizens are being targeted for personal abuse and violence in a country which vaunts freedom of religion as a fundamental constitutional right, it is imperative that we inform ourselves as much as we can about Islam so that we can counter this poisoning of society.

Basim Elkarra is the Executive Director of the Sacramento office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-SV). For over a decade, Elkarra has founded and run CAIR-CA's youth leadership program at the State Capitol. Elkarra is a member of the California Democratic Party's (CDP) Executive Board and Chairs the Affirmative Action Committee. Elkarra was recently appointed to the Sacramento Community Police Commission. He also regularly appears in the media as a commentator on civil liberties issues. Elkarra previously served on numerous boards including: the Los Rios Community College Bond Oversight Committee, ACLU Sacramento, New Leaders Council (Sacramento) Advisory Board, Sacramento Police Multicultural Advisory Committee, and the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association's (APAPA) Outreach Committee. The San Francisco native holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley and resides with his wife and four children in Sacramento, California.

"Let us not look back in anger, or forward in fear,
but around in awareness."

- James Thurber

Social Justice Activities

Environmental Justice Book Study

STARTS SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 6:30 P.M.

AT WOLF CREEK LODGE

By Bob Miller

You are invited to join a book study group to discuss the book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate* by Naomi Klein.

"This is the best book about climate change in a very long time – in large part because it's about much more."

– Bill McKibben

We plan to meet three times. The first session is on Sunday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the sitting room of Wolf Creek Lodge. I have chosen this location for four reasons:

1. Wolf Creek Lodge is an example of sustainable living
2. Some members of Wolf Creek Lodge plan to join us
3. It will be comfortable
4. It's a short commute for me.

Wolf Creek Lodge is located at 800 Freeman Lane, Grass Valley, CA - see this webpage for directions: <http://www.wolfcreekodge.org/Directions/>. Please let me know if you plan to attend: Bob Miller (bob@sierramiller.com).

Congregation Passes the Plate

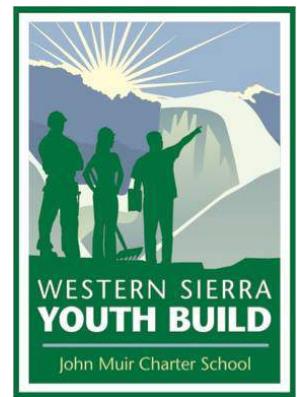
Rev. David Usher

UUCM Interim Minister

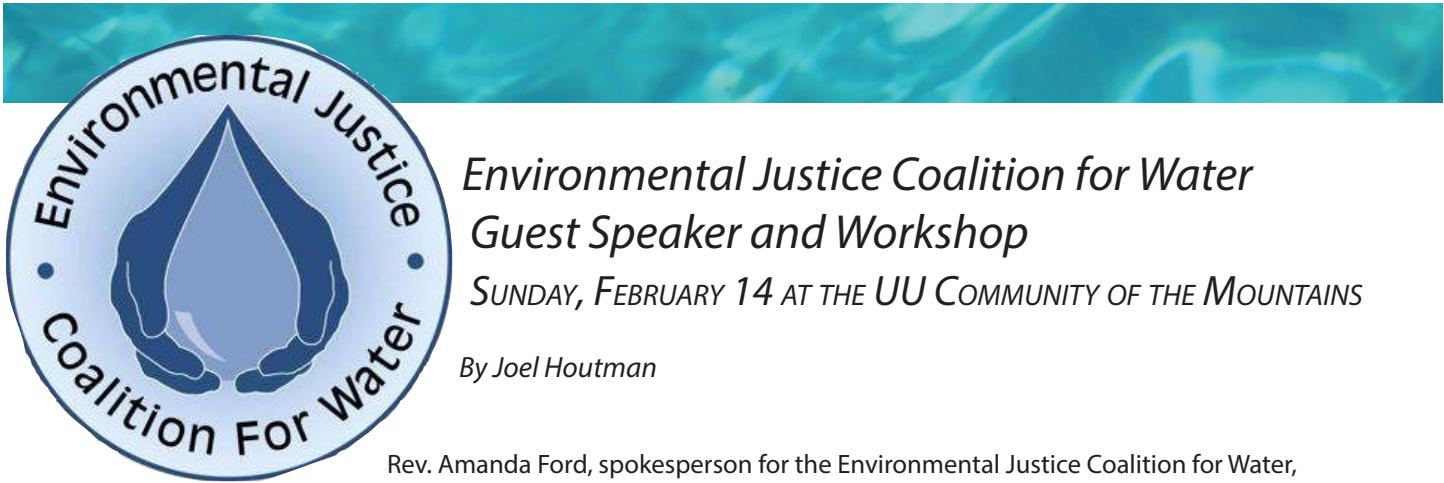
Warm thanks are extended to the congregation for your generosity to our two most recent Pass the Plates.



On December 6, Anita Wald-Tuttle told us of the work of The Interfaith Food Ministry, and you responded by giving \$603.95.



On January 3, Anita Bagwell spoke to us about Western Sierra Youth Build, a new school for young adults with mental and emotional challenges, and you responded by giving \$1,028. She later led a workshop for ten or so interested people.



Environmental Justice Coalition for Water Guest Speaker and Workshop

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 AT THE UU COMMUNITY OF THE MOUNTAINS

By Joel Houtman

Rev. Amanda Ford, spokesperson for the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, will speak at the 9:45 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. services on Sunday, February 14.

After the second service at 12:45 P.M., there will be a workshop and snacks with Rev. Ford.

The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water is a coalition of community grassroots and intermediary organizations that build a collective, community-based movement dedicated to achieving equitable access to water resources for low-income communities and communities of color in California. They advocate for environmental justice, foster new collaborations and build capacity among community members to become strong voices for water justice locally, regionally, and statewide.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Women's Circle – Potluck and Planning for 2016 TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016, 6 P.M.

UUCM women are invited to our first meeting of 2016. We'll eat a potluck meal together, review last year's highlights, what worked, what didn't, and put together a tentative plan for activities we would like to do for this coming year. Come with some bright ideas and let's do some brain-storming!

RSVP to Kathryn Young or Clarita Nolan, and let us know what you plan to bring to the potluck.

Clarita's contact information is: 530-575-2229. (text or call) Kathryn's is: kathyneyounguu@gmail.com, 530-478-1329

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 SAVE-THE-DATE: 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. Price and specific details will be provided in the spring. But for now, mark your calendars for May 13 - 14 and get excited for what is already looking like an amazing retreat!

2016 WhaleCoast Alaska Tour

JUNE 11-20, 2016

WhaleCoast Alaska is a Unitarian Universalist eco-cultural and spiritual program for people who are looking for a more authentic Alaskan experience. WhaleCoast Alaska is operated in cooperation with four UU Alaska fellowships – Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka – that provide home stays, dinner parties, activities, and transportation for the guests.

Significant funds raised through WhaleCoast Alaska helped finance the construction of the farthest north UU church in the world in Fairbanks. The Anchorage UU congregation recently moved into a beautiful new sanctuary with the help of tour proceeds. In 2015, the participating Alaska congregations raised over \$36,000 through WhaleCoast Alaska. Over the past 23 years, a total of over \$430,000 has been raised for the work of these congregations. Over a thousand guests have visited Alaska with our program.

You will be impressed with the uniqueness and quality of our WhaleCoast Alaska tours. If you are looking for a more personal and authentic Alaskan experience, this is the right tour for you! For more information, email the WhaleCoast Alaska tour director Dave Frey at dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966, or see www.whalecoastak.org.

Rev. David leads 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, 2016, 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 if you are interested.





Religious Education Updates

*Claire Miller
Coordinator of Programs
for Children and Youth*

UUCM Children & Youth Program

Sunday morning programs for school age children are during the 9:45 A.M. service. Nursery care for babies and toddlers is available at both services.

Kids & Youth Music Night

The music program, led by Jordan Thomas-Rose, has gotten off to a great start. An enthusiastic band of children come from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. There are several guitars, a violin, and voices plus a beginner recorder class (open to anyone from kindergarten and older).

New recruits are welcome to join at any time - this is all about having fun making music and learning together. There are no auditions or minimum requirements. All that you need is to bring your enthusiasm, interest and energy.

For more information and to ensure notification of upcoming similar events, contact Jordan (music@uugrassvalley.org) or Claire (530-205-5324 or truckeeclaire@yahoo.com)

O.W.L. – Our Whole Lives

*A COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION CLASS FOR TEENS
IN GRADE 7 THROUGH 10*

This course includes discussions on relationships, setting limits, accepting responsibility for your actions, and practice in developing the confidence to take good decisions through the teenage years and the rest of your life.

Interested parents must attend a parent orientation meeting on Sunday, January 10 at 1:00 P.M. in the upstairs RE classroom.

If you have questions or wish to register your child, please contact Claire Miller (530-205-5324 or truckeeclaire@yahoo.com), Paul Elias (530-272-3908 or ppcpaule2000@gmail.com), or Emily Gallup (530-559-0101 or emilygallup@yahoo.com).
Adult OWL Chalice Circle



Adult Faith Development Opportunities

The Adult OWL program that was to be offered from January through March will not be held as advertised. We simply did not get enough commitment at this point to go ahead.

We (Lin Jovanović & Peter Musser) are committed to bringing this valuable program to the adults in our congregation and in the community at large. Maybe you were interested in adult OWL, but weren't sure what it was really about. Maybe the commitment of time was an issue for you. Whatever the reason, we want to encourage you all to stay tuned for an information session to be held later this month. We can better explain the purpose of the curriculum and answer any questions you have about the program you might have. For more information, contact Lin Jovanović (linmosaic@yahoo.com).



January Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION	DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION				
JANUARY:											
10	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes	24	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes				
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle			10:50	Drop-in Support Circle				
		11:30	Sunday Service			11:30	Sunday Service				
		12:45	State of the UUnion			12:45	Q&A with Dr. Basim Elkarra				
		1:00	Youth OWL Parent Orientation			1:00	Youth OWL Program				
12	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation	26	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation				
		4:00	Caring Committee	27	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group				
		6:00	Women's Circle			4:30	Finance Committee Meeting				
13	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group	28	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee				
		11:00	Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep			10:30	Writers' Group				
		5:15	Membership Committee Meeting	29	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place				
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal	30	Saturday	9:00	Vision Day				
14	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee	31	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes				
		10:30	Writers' Group			10:50	Drop-in Support Circle				
		6:00	Board of Trustees Meeting			11:30	Sunday Service				
15	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place			1:00	Youth OWL Program				
16	Saturday	9:00	Building & Grounds Work Party	FEBRUARY:							
		12:30	Building & Grounds Meeting	2	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation				
17	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes			5:30	Art & Spirituality Affinity Group				
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle	3	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group				
		11:30	Sunday Service			10:30	Humanism Group				
18	Monday	12:00	February Mt. Chalice Articles Due			5:00	Youth Music				
19	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation			6:30	Choir Rehearsal				
		5:30	Art & Spirituality Affinity Group	4	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee				
20	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group			10:30	Men's Book Group – WUC				
		10:30	Faith Beyond Belief	7	Sunday	9:45	First Sunday: Bring Food!				
		5:00	Youth Music			10:50	Sunday Service & RE Classes				
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal			11:30	Drop-in Support Circle				
21	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee			1:00	Sunday Service				
		10:30	Men's Book Group – WUC				Youth OWL Program				
		11:00	Social Justice Committee Mtg								
23	Saturday	9:00-1:00	New Member Orientation								

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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