

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

December 2016

UPCOMING SERVICES

Two Service Times each Sunday: 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 offered during the 9:45 A.M. service.

Nursery care is available for both services.

DECEMBER THEME: PRESENCE

December 4 What's a UU to do with Christmas?
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Many people wrestle with the season and holiday of Christmas, whether with its social demands, its theological history, its commercial nature in U.S. culture, or the family dynamics it amplifies. Wherever you are in the "Bah, Humbug!" – to – "It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year!" spectrum, come, find your own way to enter the heart of the season with thoughtfulness and presence.

December 11 Finding Stillness
Service Leaders:
Benjamin McPherson and Sarah Scott

Winter is settling in and the holiday season is in full swing. Join us December 11th for our annual meditation service to reconnect with the still small voice within in a beloved community of fellow seekers. The service will feature soft music, contemplative poems, and several brief intervals for quiet reflection.

December 18 Seasons of Light!
A UUCM Speech Choir Play
Directed by Lindsay Dunckel, with Rev. Kevin

Celebrate several of the season's holidays through music and a wonderful Full Community (all ages) "readers theater" play by Lois Van Leer, "Seasons of Light." It is fun, funny, informative and meaningful. Come celebrate the light that becomes so important at this time of year, including the light within you.

December 20 Yule!
(Tuesday Eve) Laura Zimmerman, Rev. Kevin Tarsa and others

A Yule Eve celebration rooted in the rhythms of the earth, the daylight, our bodies and our spirits at the edge of the winter solstice. Watch the eChalice and the website for details. If you would like to help plan or participate in the celebration, contact Laura at lauzimmerman@gmail.com or 530-478-1953.

December 24 Christmas Eve: Silent Night, Holy Night
(Saturday 5 pm) Rev. Kevin Tarsa, UUCM Choir, musicians & you

Carols, candlelight, thoughtful reflections and Christmas stories (plus warm cider and cookies afterward) will invite us to find warmth, connection, community and meaning on this tender night.

BRING YOUR FULL GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BOXES to support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee that partners with people around the world who are doing amazing good in their local communities. We'll collect the boxes in a special offering.

December 25 Of Peace on Earth, Good Will to All
(One Service, 11:30 a.m.) Rev. Kevin Tarsa

A Christmas/Hanukkah morning anchored in songs of joy and all that is newly born in our hearts at this time, yes, AND we'll honor the challenges ahead by drawing on the Hanukkah story and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1863 poem "Christmas Bells" to call us to heed and work toward the angels' proclamation of peace and goodwill to all.

JANUARY THEME: PROPHECY

Please find upcoming January service descriptions on page 9.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Item	Page
Upcoming Services.....	1
Panning for Gold/Rev. Kevin Tarsa.....	2
Membership Committee	3-5
Stewardship Committee	6
Hospitality	6
Holiday Party at UUCM	7
Caring Committee.....	8
Building and Grounds Committee	8
Worship Committee	9
Social Justice News & Activities.....	10
Community Connections - Social & Spiritual	11-12
Religious Education for All Ages	13-14
The Office	14
Monthly Calendar.....	15
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours	16



Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

Panning for Gold

What does it mean to be a community of presence?

The Soul Matters resource for this month begins thusly:

Spiritually, presence can mean two radically different things. One the one hand, contemplatives talk of "being present." Presence from this perspective is all about awareness and remembering to "live in the moment." On the other hand, theologians tend to come at presence from the perspective of "otherness." Their concern is not just that we pay attention to the present moment, but that we notice a transcendent Presence that is woven through all moments.

This month, we refuse to take sides. Attentiveness or otherness? Who says we have to choose? Isn't it true that, more often than not, they dance together more than they compete? Isn't it true that when we are most present, a powerful presence emerges?

I, a non-theist, a humanistic religious naturalist, find also that being fully present invites an experience of transcendence that many people perceive as a presence. I know exactly to what Christians refer when they speak of the presence of the Holy Spirit entering a room. I have felt it many, many times in my life, most often when a room of people is singing meaningfully and powerfully together, fully present to that moment. I have however explained and interpreted that experience differently at various points in my journey.

I say that UUCM at its best as a religious community calls us all to both being powerfully present to each moment, to one another and to the world, AND to honoring the felt sense of presence and transcendent connection that we will interpret and explain in a variety of ways – as Spirit, as God's love, as neurological, affective attunement, as cosmic consciousness, as the inherent oneness of all things...

In the past few months I have invited you to practice direct communication (to avoid pass-through communication), to practice deep listening with one another, and to find your

holy curiosity when faced with differing political views. These are practices that foster and strengthen healthy and deep relationships.

They are also practices of presence, each strengthening the other. They invite us to step out of our unconscious default behaviors and to attend with full and thoughtful awareness to a particular moment, a particular conversation, a particular person and relationship.

In this high-energy holiday season, at the edge of an extraordinary threshold in our nation's journey, may UUCM become - through you - an ever more meaningful community of presence, in all the ways that will be possible.

- Rev. Kevin

Thankful for UUCM's Thanksgiving!

By Kathryn Young, Chair, Membership Committee

Wow! Our first Thanksgiving Potluck with Rev. Kevin was a HUGE success! Over 50 folks attended, the sanctuary was transformed into a beautiful, candlelit dining room, there was music and laughter, white tablecloths and festive decorations! The tables in the Alcott room were laden with wonderful family favorites from turkey to stuffing, olives to green bean casserole... and the Anthony room had a delectable array of desserts to squeeze into the cracks. Amazing! Thank you to everyone who cooked, ate, set up, cleaned up, and smiled – YOU made it happen!

There is talk about doing a similar potluck meal for Christmas Day... look for a more details and a sign-up sheet in the foyer early in December.



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 or (231) 883-1058

Membership Committee

Curious?

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 the services on **December 18** or **January 8**. (Or contact him any time for a personal appointment – minister@uugrassvalley.org or 530-274-1661.)

In February there are also more in-depth chances to learn and to connect to others, whether you've just discovered this community or have been hanging around the edges for a while. The **Welcome to UU(CM)** morning offers an overview of this religious tradition and this particular congregation. The **"UU History"** and **"UU Principles and Theologies"** evenings are chances to delve a little deeper. All are welcome at any of these events. We'll repeat the series again in April.

To RSVP for the Q&A's or the February sessions, sign up on Sunday mornings or contact the UUCM office: admin@uugrassvalley.org or 530-274-1675.

PATH TO MEMBERSHIP (AND MORE) WINTER 2017 SESSIONS

Question & Answer Conversations:

Sunday, December 18 and Sunday, January 8, with Kevin after each service

Welcome to UU(CM)

Saturday, February 4, 9 am - 1 pm –

UU History with Rev. Kevin

Thursday, February 9, 6 - 8 pm –

UU Principles and Theologies with Rev. Kevin

Tuesday, February 21, 6 - 8 pm –

Joining Sunday

Sunday, March 12, both services –
(for those who have decided to join by then)

Greeters & Ushers are Needed!

By Kathryn Young, Chair, Membership Committee

What impression does someone have of our community when they step through our doors for the first time? Are they greeted warmly? Do they feel welcome? Or is there mass confusion and/or no one notices them at all? Would you come back if the first time you came, you felt anonymous?

Please consider becoming a greeter and/or usher and helping us create that welcome feeling. We have a lot of new people coming in to "check us out" right now – between having a new minister, and people feeling discouraged about the world, we

can be a haven for many. However, currently we have a very small team of regular greeters and ushers, and it's a strain for us to cover both services adequately each Sunday.

If you can commit to greeting and/or ushering once a month or every other month, please let someone at the Membership table know. It's a job that happens while you are already at UUCM, with no lengthy meetings or commitments. We can train you on the spot. It's fun and easy and a great way to meet people and help our community. You do not have to be a long term member to be effective, you just have to be friendly and willing. We need you, please help!

New Member Ceremony Highlights

By Claire Miller

Thanksgiving celebrations began early at UUCM! On Sunday, Nov. 20th, with a 'full house'*** of regular attendees, friends, families and visitors, we officially welcomed ten new members into the congregation.

In a joyful service of celebration, Rev. Kevin Tarsa, along with members of the Membership committee, the UUCM choir, and the Board President, led us through a "sharing of covenant" where we pledged together to uphold the UU principles of love, justice, and service.

*** note - "full house" is a figure of speech. There is ALWAYS room for more at UUCM! There is ALWAYS room for more UUs in the world. And, there is DEFINITELY room for YOU!

Meet Our New Members!

The next two pages have photos and short biographies of our new members... please look for them next Sunday and say "hello!" We are so delighted to have them join our community!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathryn Young, *chair*
Yolanda Bernasconi, Kathy MacLeod, Claire Miller
and Marilyn Young

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

*We're always looking for friendly people who
enjoy getting involved... Come join us!*

Membership Committee introduces...

CHUCK CHAMPLIN is a retired corporate communications executive and writer who also enjoys sailing his 14-foot Hobie-Cat catamaran, hiking in the Sutter Buttes near Yuba City, and playing his drum set or his guitars (acoustic and electric). A graduate of UC Berkeley in English, Chuck worked as a drummer and singer in a rock 'n roll dance band in the 1970s, then at the LA Times as an editor and writer, and at the Walt Disney Company for 12 years in corporate communications. He retired from UC Santa Barbara's Office of Admissions in 2013. As an inventor, Chuck designed and built a hand-and-foot-powered bicycle, and is now writing a non-fiction book called "Think Like a Molecule." He was raised as a Roman Catholic but took up UUism while living in Santa Barbara. Chuck and wife Lesley moved to Yuba City in March of 2015.



wonderful home in South Lake Tahoe. We had views of the mountains from every window and a magnificent hiking trail out our back door. I was able to be an active participant in the early years of my two grandsons. But, we decided to retire our skies, put away the snow shovels and move closer to our newest granddaughter. It was a hard decision. We had made another decision 16 years before. Ken and I raised our three children in the historical and lovely town of Oyster Bay, New York. I was a special ed teacher, specializing in learning disabilities. It was a deeply fulfilling career. I was so fortunate to earn a wage for something I loved doing. But, on a vacation to see where my daughter decided to settle, we saw Lake Tahoe and packed our bags. We left family, friends and a community we loved but the beauty of Tahoe was irresistible. I have never regretted that decision and now we're made another enormous change that, I am confident, will bring new joy and new adventure into our lives.

CASSANDRA HOLDEMAN

I'm Cassandra Holdeman, a student of life, a journeyer in the world, a seeker of truth. While this will always be the case, I can also make a claim for having arrived. I say this with humility, because about a year ago I faced mortality. Awful as it was, I emerged from the experience with a renewed sense of purpose and a sincere appreciation for life. Recovered now, I'm ready to participate in community, to share my story as well as my talents, and to engage with people. I want to share my life's lessons and talents and to be nurtured by the stories and lessons of others. For me, this is a deeply spiritual path. I consider UUCM an opening, a door I'm eager to be stepping through.



LESLEY CHAMPLIN and husband Chuck moved to Yuba City in March 2015 from Santa Barbara, where they were members of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. Having had no formal religious education, but very humanist parents, Lesley was drawn to Unitarian Universalism by the seven principles, which seem so reasonable and humane a guide for living, and the community

she has found in UU. Lesley is a life-long animal lover and naturalist whose idea of a good time is a long walk away from civilization with her dog and her camera. John Muir is one of her heroes. She also loves the thrill of the hunt in flea markets, thrift shops, antique collectives, and bookstores. Originally from Huntington, New York, Lesley went to high school and college in Los Angeles (UCLA), majoring in English. She worked as a systems analyst and vice president and manager for Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco for 15 years and managed worldwide online software sales for Autodesk in San Rafael for 9 years. In 2012, Lesley returned to her English major roots to become a copyeditor and writer on contract first with Wells Fargo, then Cisco Systems and once again, with Wells Fargo, where she is currently serving as a communications consultant. Lesley and Chuck have a blended family of six children, a dog, and a cat.

MARYANN CURRINGTON

My life, right now, seems all about changes. For the past 16 years, my husband Ken and I lived in a



JOHN HOLDEMAN

I was born, raised, and educated in the Midwest and moved to California shortly after college. My wife Cassandra and I raised our family in Santa Cruz County. After our children were grown, we moved to North Carolina for several years and then returned to the west to Washington State before finally coming back home to California in 2014. Several difficult family

issues in the past few years have caused me do some internal examining and to realize that it is time for me to make a new commitment. My strong interest in Social Justice has lead me to UUCM. Having visited the congregation several times with my wife, I feel that UUCM is the right place for me, so I want to join the congregation

Membership Committee introduces...

DIANE KAISER

I moved to Grass Valley two years ago from San Jose, to be close to my daughter and grandchildren. Was raised in Maui Hawaii, danced Hula professionally. Have a passion for cooking, enjoy bike riding, and the outdoors and gardening. I was looking for a church, found the Unitarian Community of the Mountains, which showed me, compassion, love and understanding. Now I have two homes in beautiful Grass Valley.



faiths, and prepared ministers of diverse faith traditions for certification as hospital chaplains. She loves to teach and to create and participate in worship experiences that are inclusive in thought and practice. Her earlier careers were in advertising and as a classical singer. More recently, she and her husband Bob sailed 10,000 miles in their sailboat Realtime after retirement in 2011, and continued their world travels by house/pet sitting in 5 countries for an extended period of time. They are now happily settled on land, on the shores of Lake Wildwood. Karyn is curious about the world, its people and its faith. She reads broadly and her spirit continues to be moved by music and people's stories. She has 3 children and 2 grandchildren.



BOB PACKARD moved to the area last April with his wife, Karyn, after living here in November and December of last year while taking care of a ranch overlooking Lake Englebright. That ranch was house #20 in a series of engagements on three continents, and 2½ years of ocean sailing from Long Beach, to Mexico, then through the South Pacific island groups, and finally to New Zealand. Prior to those

adventures, Bob lived a more conventional professional life as an engineer and as an officer in the Marine Corps and raised a family with two children (and now three grandchildren) who he would like to see more often. From his earliest days, Bob has enjoyed the outdoors and still finds time for hiking, kayaking, and golf. He takes a keen interest in political reform and has worked to reduce our political system's dependence on large amounts of cash in the form of campaign contributions. Bob thinks of himself as a seeker of spirit and has previously been a member of UU churches in Solana Beach and Long Beach. He's now learning to operate the sound board for our Sunday services and looking forward to finding other ways to be of service to our community.

KARYN PACKARD is a retired minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Her entire ministerial career was spent in hospital ministry in Hawaii and California. She was married/widowed and raised her children in Kailua, Hawaii on the island of Oahu. After moving to California in 1990, she finished her residency at Loma Linda Medical Center and found her life's work as Director of Pastoral Care at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital, where she worked for 20 years. During that time she ministered to people of all



CARMEN RILEY

Raised in the Napa Valley, I went on to graduate from San Francisco State in 1976. The next number of years were spent at various training and breeding barns located throughout the southwest. I first moved to Nevada County back in the 90's, and except for four years spent in a small town outside of Telluride, CO., where I worked as a veterinarian assistant, and

volunteer EMT, and three years spent in Twain Harte, CA., I've lived here ever since. I enjoy time in the outdoors communing with nature, working in the garden, and fiction writing. I'm involved as a volunteer at Briar Patch, and with the 'cat house' at Sammie's Friends no kill animal shelter, and look forward to continuing my spiritual journey with other members of the UU Community.

PENELOPE WILLIAMS

Because I live near-by this Church, I have been able to try it out and happily find that I could pick up a dropped thread from my previous Church Study Group and continue it into better ways here. The tie-in is found in my current focus which is the study and practice of certain Spiritual Laws introduced to me here by a Church member in the form of a small pocket-book by Deepak Chopra entitled "The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success." This book sets forth the more 'easy-does-it' and harmonious behavior patterns that tend to fit into the ways in which the Universe runs itself, causing the practitioner of these compatible ways to succeed more easily "in fulfilling their dreams." I enjoy and find great value in Church participation here. The people and Ministry in it seem remarkable to me.



Stewardship Committee

The Spiritual Roots of Stewardship

By Beryl Maclean Beckwith, Chair
Stewardship Committee

Dearest UUCM - a deep heartfelt thank you to the many who have extended love and support since my major revision back surgery on October 3rd. I know many have been confused about my status, so here is a direct update! The surgery ended up being more extensive than anticipated, and recovery is not a quick process, but I am doing very well and am optimistic for the future. The healing process is slow. Please know the encouragement and concern from you has been deeply appreciated. I have sorely missed the weekly pieces of life at church in the last 8 weeks.

With Rev. Kevin as our new settled minister, UUCM has indeed arrived at an open gate to consider its opportunities to re-focus on what Stewardship means for our beloved community, and how we will decide to be adaptive, authentic and visionary to continue together as the connected and generous congregation we know we can be.

A group of 8 of us met on Friday, November 18th to have a conversation around our Stewardship program and team status. For clarity, this was not a new Stewardship Committee meeting, but rather a working focus group for the afternoon - Rev. Kevin, Joel Houtman, Bob Miller, Helen Williamson, Laura Zimmerman, Melissa Ridgway, Phil Hart, and myself. Please take time to thank them for taking their time & talent to help with ideas as UUCM begins to rebuild its Stewardship group post-ministerial search and settlement.

A sincere, open, caring and curious leadership focus for a Stewardship program of excellence has remained a priority for me since I wrote to the congregation in early March; however, I have made the decision to resign as Stewardship Chair effective December 31, 2016. This decision is not due to a lack of desire or passion for the rewards and work of lay leadership in the Stewardship arena, but rather what has surfaced post-surgery as a very strong pragmatic awareness that I must take care of me first, and then hopefully can return to helping others in my usual more high-energy fashion. It is clear to me that in order to focus appropriately on my own recovery and personal health and well-being, I need to let go of leadership and committee obligations at the church at this time. I very much look forward to a future of new possibilities as a long recovery process progresses and sees itself through.

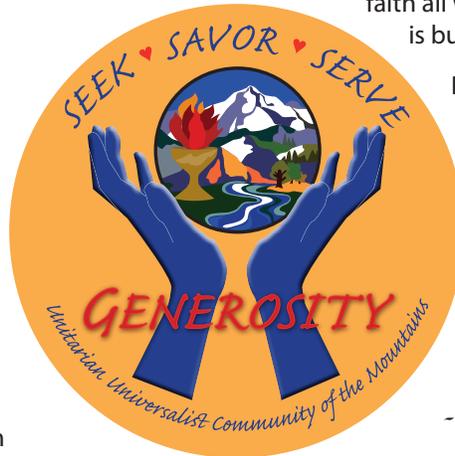
I ask for your understanding, support and consideration for what is an extremely difficult decision, and will work for a smooth transition process to a new Stewardship leader. I know that this is the right decision at the right time for me, and have

faith all will be well for us as a new Stewardship Team is built.

Rev. Kevin, Dave MacLeod and myself look forward to sharing a more detailed communication that will provide clarification to the congregation with a proposal for a transition plan and creation of a newly-minted Stewardship Team!

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments in the interim. With much love and blessings to all,

- Beryl



Hospitality Hour

Hospitality Hour Needs Volunteers!

By Marilyn Young, Coordinator,
UUCM Hospitality Hour



Each Sunday we need four to six people to either setup or cleanup, and donations of goodies to serve. The actual tasks are as follows:

SET-UP: This is done during the early service from 9:45 to ~10:30. You set the tables, make the coffee, and arrange the food on plates and platters. After the Hospitality Hour, you can attend the second service.

CLEAN-UP: Attend the first service, then come back for the Hospitality Hour, and when the second service starts, you clear the tables, put away the food, and clean the kitchen. This should take 30-45 minutes.

FOOD DONATIONS: Each week we need donations of two or three sweet treats and two or three healthy treats – preferably dropped off in the kitchen before the first service.

During the Hospitality Hour, the crew is responsible for keeping the coffee pots full, and tables stocked and tidy.

You can help by letting me know if you can commit to:

1. Set-up or clean-up once a month or every other month
2. Bring goodies once a month or every other month
3. Both work a shift and bring food.
4. Be on a list to be called when needed.

Please contact me at: (hospitality@uugrassvalley.org, or 916-203-5962.) If you wish to sign up on line both to work or to donate food, you can open our on-line sign-up page (**Make sure to click "SAVE" after you enter your availability on this form**): <https://doodle.com/poll/kd5f6egedsqwegir>



PLEASE COME TO OUR UUCM

Holiday Party

Saturday, December 10, 2016
from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Activities for all ages including...

☆ ☆ ☆ **DECORATING & CRAFTS** ☆ ☆ ☆

*Bedeck the Christmas Tree • Cookies and Cupcakes
Make ornaments, paper chains and snowflakes,
string popcorn and more*

☆ ☆ ☆ **MUSIC** ☆ ☆ ☆

Christmas caroling, youth performers and more!

☆ ☆ ☆ **POTLUCK** ☆ ☆ ☆

Please sign up in the Foyer at the Membership Table!

Caring Committee

Caring Committee Notes

By Gwen Eymann, Chair, Caring Committee

During this season of Giving and Gratitude I am reminded of how much this community does for each other. I thank you all for being a part of the Gift of sharing and love.

Big THANKS for your support of the UUCM Giving Tree. With your gifts we are able to reach out to our greater Nevada County Community and share our generosity with many families. Their Christmas will be brighter because of the UUCM gifts

We share within our community our joys and sorrows. Please keep the following people in your thoughts and in your acts of kindness:

MAGS MATTHEWS and her partners have just become the proud owners of their own physical therapy business. Congratulations Mags!

BEV LYON is continuing to gain her health and her strength after a long bout with illness. It is so nice to have Bev home and regularly being in community.

BERYL MACLEAN BECKWITH is continuing to recover from the back surgery she had in October. She is getting out and about some these days, and she appreciates all the caring and support she is receiving from our UUCM community.

LEAL PORTIS is continuing her fight with a recurrence of cancer. She intends to win this battle just like she did her last round with cancer 6 years ago. Leal could use our support and offers for rides to Sunday Service and doctors' appointments.

ERNIE JACKSON is 92 years young. He doesn't always make it to UUCM events, but his spirit is with us. Ernie would love calls and visits from old friends. He really enjoys his connection to Men's Group when he can get there.

The Mountain Chalice Caring notes come from individuals and from specific notes on our *Joys & Sorrows/Concerns Cards*. If you do not wish to have your words in *The Mountain Chalice*, please make a note on the card.

Building & Grounds

December Update

NEXT WORK PARTY:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 9 A.M.

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building and Grounds Committee

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank everyone who braved the rain to help with Building and Grounds this month. Anne Lyon, Yvonne Mills, Anita Wald-Tuttle, Phil Hart, Keith Johnson, Kern Hidebrand, Rene Wiley, Joel Houtman, and especially Theresa Houtman and Jennifer Taylor-Wightman, who braved the wet weather to put up a barrier between our backyard and the Methodist church to discourage people from coming into the yard at night. They both looked very water-soaked by the time they were done, but I think they had fun.

I would also like to thank Mel Berry for working on the roof leak during the week prior to this rain. We have made marked progress on controlling the upstairs bathroom window leak...Yay!!

On a sad note, Kia Hatch stopped by the meeting and retired from Building and Grounds after many years of service. She will be missed.

CARING COMMITTEE

Gwen Eymann, *chair*

Barbara Chesnut, Robin Hart, May Lawrence, Anne Lyon, Leal Portis, 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: Gwen Eymann, 530-274-7965
caring@uugrassvalley.org

BREAKING NEWS:

This month from December 12th to 26th, our cleaning service will be on a well-deserved vacation. I will be asking for volunteers to help keep our building clean while they are off.

FINALLY:

Finally: With the New Year coming soon many of you are thinking about New Year resolutions. I can think of one that will make you really feel good about yourself. Resolve to volunteer at UUCM for the coming year. Building and Grounds may not be your thing, but there are many opportunities to help on a limited time basis. Just let us know. You will be appreciated.

Worship Committee

Join Us in Making a Joyful Noise!

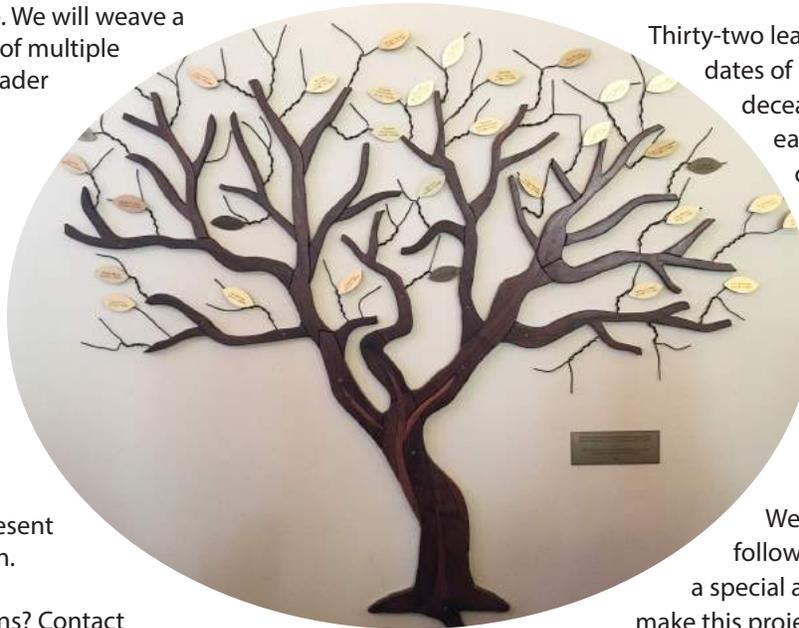
PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER 18TH

FULL COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Lindsay Dunckel, UUCM Vice President

We will be presenting "Seasons of Light: A Winter Speech Choir" that uses a spoken-word choir to explore the many winter/solstice time celebrations and we are looking for volunteers to participate. We will weave a description of the practices of multiple holiday traditions into a broader search for meaning, all in a pulsing, rhythmic spoken choir piece (no singing required!) that promises to leave participants and congregation feeling uplifted! There are roles for 13 solo-speakers and as many chanters as would like to participate - all ages of readers welcome! Participants will need to attend at least one rehearsal and, ideally, be present for both services on the 18th.

Join us! Interested? Questions? Contact Lindsay Dunckel at lindsaydunckel@gmail.com or 530-277-9718.



Memorial Tree Dedicated at UUCM "Day of the Dead" Service

By Robin Hart, Chair, Art and Aesthetics Team

The UUCM Memorial Tree was formally dedicated by the congregation on October 30, 2016 at the Day of the Dead Service.

Thirty-two leaves with the names and dates of past UUCM members, now deceased, adorn the tree, and each name was read to the congregation as part of the remembrance service.

The Memorial Tree was made possible by the Don Scott Family Endowment and we thank Bernell Scott and her family for their generosity.

We also want to thank the following people who contributed a special amount of time and talent to make this project happen:

Joel Houtman and Charlie Zimmerman for their beautiful woodworking on the tree, Annie Haymaker and Anita Wald-Tuttle for their research efforts, and the rest of the Art and Aesthetics Team – Kathryn Young, Eileen Hale and Robin Hart – for planning and design of the tree.



UPCOMING SERVICES

Continued from page 1

JANUARY THEME: PROPHECY

January 1 **New Year's Day - Cider Sunday**
(One Service, 11:30 a.m.) **Worship Associate: Anita Wald-Tuttle**

On this prelude to an unpredictable new year we will pause as we have for many of the preceding years, "circle the chairs"; and take a look backward as well as forward. The Roman god Janus (for whom the month is named) will be our model. Each person is encouraged to contemplate and share what's been meaningful in their lives this past year and what they look forward to in the coming year, as we sip hot cider in community.

January 8 **Our Prophetic Imperative**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Rev. Richard Gilbert contends that we UUs and other liberal religionists live under a prophetic imperative, "a religious mandate for the corporate address of the church to the systemic problems of society." Spirituality is not only about the inner life, it is also about concern for the most vulnerable among us. Let's consider our prophetic nature and prophetic voice, and what on earth we are called to do now.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Gail Johnson-Vaughan, *chair*
Rochelle Davisson, Annie Haymaker, Beth Karow,
Willow Karow-Digangi, Bev Lyon, Benjamin McPherson,
Sarah Scott, Jordan Thomas-Rose, Anita Wald-Tuttle
and Laura Zimmerman

Committee meetings are at 6:30 p.m.
on the fourth Thursday
of each month in the Anthony Room.

Contact: Gail Johnson Vaughan, 530-477-9501
gail@familiesnow.org

Social Justice News & Activities

Social Justice Committee Update

By Keith Johnson, Chair, Social Justice Committee

PASS THE PLATE A BIG SUCCESS

As most of you know, we have changed the way we do Pass the Plate. Starting in October with Habitat for Humanity, 25% of the cash proceeds from the collection plate will be donated to a non-profit agency. Checks are designated for the agency or for your UUCM pledge. Here is the accounting for October:

Total Cash Received	\$1636.86
Cash to Habitat (25%)	\$409.22
Cash to UUCM (75%)	\$1227.64
Checks to Habitat	\$510.00

The total amount of \$919.22 to Habitat and the total amount of \$1227.64 to UUCM are both huge increases compared to prior months. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES WITH OUR PARTNERS

The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) is opposing the proposed construction of the Centennial Dam. They have asked for our help in advocating against this project during the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in January.

We will pass out literature and answer questions at tables set up for that purpose at various Festival sites. More details will be forthcoming shortly.

Hospitality House could use our help on several projects. They are seeking volunteers to help with the Nevada Count Homeless Count on January 24. You may visit homeless sites or help with several administrative tasks associated with this event. Also, Hospitality House would like to employ a team of UUCM'ers to work at their Bread and Roses thrift store. And of course, UUCM continues to prepare meals at Utah's Place on the third and fifth Fridays of every month. Contact me if you would like to volunteer for these projects or other social justice opportunities at UUCM.

COLLABORATION WITH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Save the dates of December 4 and December 11. On December 4th the RE Visioning Team, with assistance from the Social Justice Committee, will be showing the film Defying the Nazis. Lunch will be served. Please come and help support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. On December 11, Acting Director of Religious Education Kristin Famula will answer your questions about the youth BorderLink trip to Arizona/Mexico next June. The Social Justice Committee is providing financial support and outreach info for this trip.

COME JOIN US

The next meeting of the Social Justice Committee will be Thursday, December 15 at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome. For information about the Social Justice Committee, please contact Keith Johnson, kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com.

December Pass the Plate Beneficiary HALO STANDS FOR HIV / AIDS LOCAL OUTREACH

By Greg Fancher, Member, Social Justice Committee

HALO is an organization within our Public Health Services that funds expenses for those living with HIV / AIDS in Nevada County. Many people living with this lifelong illness are poor or under the poverty level. Many are physically and / or mentally challenged and do not work full time, and have some difficulty with everyday living tasks. This fund helps those in need with unexpected expenses that most of us can handle (transportation, heating, food, clothing, additional medical supplies, therapy, etc...).



HALO is minimally funded by our government and needs community support through donations to keep it going. Your donations are held within a designated HALO account for 100% usage by those in most need. As with any chronic, lifelong disease, it takes the entire community to provide additional, non-government funded support so that those affected can maintain and not suffer further because of unexpected expenses. Please consider giving as much as you can during the month of December.

Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepares Meals at Utah's Place

FRIDAYS, DECEMBER 16 AND 30 AT 4:00 P.M.,

By Keith Johnson, Chair, 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. **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.

Soul Matters Circles

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Minister

Are you looking for deeper connection with others and a space within which you can explore your deepest values and your deepest self?

A space within which you can grow in profound ways and become the person you most want to be?

Consider joining a Soul Matters Circle, a small group of deep reflection, sharing and connection that meets at least monthly for one year, drawing upon the monthly congregation-wide themes and rooted in relationship. (See the UUCM Soul Matters Circles pamphlet at UUCM.)

Phil Hart and Scottie Hart each offered heart-filled testimonials to the richness of such small group experiences. As Scottie said in the November 20 services:

WHY I WILL JOIN A SOUL MATTERS CIRCLE

By Scottie Hart

I started coming to UUCM around 2006, looking for what I described then as a "spiritual home." I saw that if I wanted to actually feel at home, I would need to get involved. I participated in some affinity groups, and started others. I took classes, and I perked up when we experimented with Chalice Circles and Covenant Groups.

My hunger for deeper community and spiritual understanding have not abated. The outpouring of response last winter when we announced the Women's Spirituality Group told me I was far from alone in my yearning for a closer sense of connection.

I am very excited about the possibilities the Soul Matters Circles offer.

I have learned that the Soul Matters materials are intriguing.

I expect the exercises offered between gatherings to be meaningful to me and to fit my personal interests.

I expect to develop a close sense of family with the five to ten other members of my Circle.

I look forward to exploring and experiencing spiritual themes.

Soul Matters

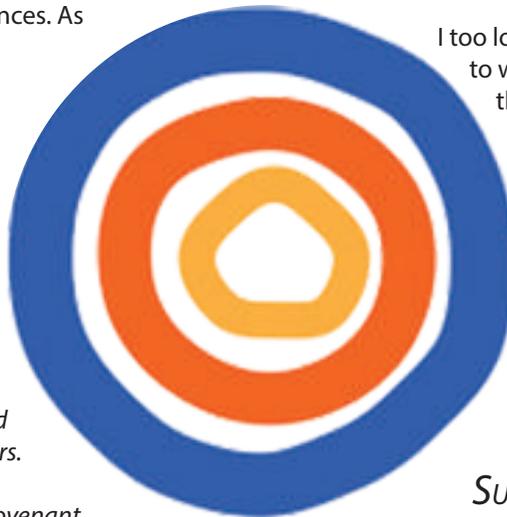
I expect to be encouraged and supported in growing my personal understanding of myself and my place in society and the cosmos.

I expect to have an experience, rather than attend a class.

I love the idea of some structure for my developing sense of what "the spiritual" has to do with me.

I will be contributing to maintaining the near-family sense of community we prize here at UUCM.

You can easily see why I have already put Saturday, January 7, the date of the Introductory Circle into my datebook. I hope you'll join me.



I too look forward to Soul Matters Circles, and to working with the facilitators throughout the year. For more information and to sign up for the introductory Soul Matters Circle experience on Saturday, January 7 from 9:30 am-12:30 pm., contact Phil Hart (philhart115@gmail.com or 530-272-6870) or Scottie Hart (530-272-5022).

Drop-In Support Circle SUNDAYS, ANTHONY ROOM, UUCM, 10:50 A.M.

By Janet Bullock, Facilitator, Drop-In Support Circle

This weekly circle on Sunday continues to be open, on a drop-in basis, for UUCM people needing a little extra support and those with extra support to give. Our circle meets in the period between services, at about 10:50, in the library. Quickly grab a snack and join us.

It is not a therapy group; it is a confidential sharing circle, and is facilitated by congregation members. (Even if you don't feel like talking but just want to sit among caring people, you are welcome to come.) Contact Janet Bullock to learn more (530-477-8760, janetbullock41@gmail.com)

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Women's Circle Christmas Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

The UUCM Women's Circle will be gathering for their Annual Holiday Party on Monday, December 12th at 6pm.

Please come and enjoy a warm and wonderful evening together. There will be good food (because it's a potluck), a coffee/tea mug gift exchange, sharing of your favorite holiday traditions and carols to sing!

Beth Freedman will be hosting this year. Please RSVP at bethannfreedman@gmail.com or 530 575-9319 by Friday December 9th. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Beth or Kathryn Young at kathryneyounguu@gmail.com, 530-478-1329.

Hope to see you for some good holiday cheer!

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 or 530-559-0904 for more information.

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.

UUCM Humanism Discussion Group

By George Dunstan

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 A.M. until noon at UUCM in the Channing Room.

For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan (477.7635 or gvgeode@gmail.com) or David Briggs (274.9236 or davidbriggs100@yahoo.com)

International Women's Convocation Welcomes bell hooks

FEBRUARY 16-19, 2017,
PACIFIC GROVE, CA

Do not miss this opportunity to hear bell hooks, one of the most influential voices in the American feminist movement! She will give a keynote address at the Third Women's Convocation, Asilomar, CA, February 16-19, 2017. Writer, professor, feminist theorist, and activist, hooks is the author of numerous critically acclaimed and widely influential books on the function of race, gender, class, and culture. Her most well-known works, such as *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism* (1981) and *Feminist Theory from Margin to Center* (1984) focus on issues surrounding the invisibility of black women from common discourses of racism and gender. *Feminism Is For Everybody: Passionate Politics* (2000) details her beliefs on the significance of feminist values in everyone's lives - women and men alike. hooks is currently the Distinguished Professor in Residence in Appalachian Studies at Berea College in Kentucky. Register at Third International Women's Convocation. Consult the latest edition of the Program Guide.

Visit <http://www.IntlWomensConvo.org> for all details.



bell hooks, International Women's Convocation Keynote Speaker



Kristin Famula,
Acting Director of
Religious Education

Religious Education for All Ages

I asked everyone to share as we have weekly check-ins but here feel free to share about the election. One student said I'm practicing "radical awareness" about the election. I thought wow we need to switch roles and mentioned you are doing better than probably 80% of the congregation!!

Just yet another reminder these are special kids.

- Q. How do you benefit from RE?
 A. *I definitely have felt I get 10 times what I put in. These are amazing kids. When I was 15 no way would I be as open as both the boys and girls are here. Everyone is very respectful of each other. As we explore UU principles they are totally engaged.*

Full Community Religious Education and Faith Formation

This month, join us for a holiday party, lots of opportunities for engaging in social justice work, a pageant, and more! And a special thank you to Walt O'Maley – this month's RE volunteer!

Gratitude,
Kristin

THANK YOU: Walt O'Maley

Each month we will recognize one of our education volunteers who serve as mentors, adult education workshop facilitators, teachers, long-term planners, and much more. This month we recognize volunteer Walt O'Maley who currently serves as a youth advisor.



- Q. How long have you been dedicating your time to Religious Education at UUCM?
 A. *I just started this Fall.*
- Q. What calls you to this work?
 A. *I wanted to give back to UUCM community in a different way. I lead the sound team and sure a good contribution there. However, I wanted a more interpersonal experience.*
- I have two simple goals - be present with the kids as they are so present, and hopefully be a good male role model.*
- Q. What are some of your hobbies and skills that are used in our programming?
 A. *Well I have been in men's groups for about 10 years and used to exploring topics and sharing. I wanted to try a new angle where I share and encourage our teens. Definitely leading men's groups for a number of years has helped.*
- I think it is the ability to be a kid again and not be too serious.*
- Q. What is one of your favorite RE moments?
 A. *The Sunday after the election was very special for me. I was the sole teacher.*
- In terms of activities we all drew what came to our hearts and minds with chalk on UUCM sidewalks. This was part of a nationwide event at all UU churches for the youth. Lot of fun. What was really special though was the sharing that day.*

R.E. and Social Justice

GIVING TREE UNTIL DECEMBER 4TH

Children and Youth are joining the Caring Committee in supporting our annual Giving Tree project. Watch for more information and pick up a tag from the tree!

DEFYING HATE: FUNDRAISER & MOVIE DECEMBER 4 @ 1 P.M.

Join the Religious Education and Social Justice committees for an afternoon of "Defying Hate" at UUCM. Together we will share a meal, watch *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*, and discuss our shared responsibility to defy hate locally and globally.

Watch a trailer for the movie:
<http://www.defyingthenazis.org/watch-trailer.html>

Soup, salads, and bread will be served. Donations will be gladly accepted and will be given to the UU Service Committee. Grab your soup after the service ends (1 P.M.-ish) and gather in the sanctuary.



HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 10, 3-6 P.M.

We'll be making ornaments, decorating cookies and cupcakes, singing carols, decorating the Christmas tree, and having a potluck dinner. 3 to 6 P.M.
See flyer on page 7.



Religious Education Youth Activities

UUCSJ YOUTH TRIP

Save the date! June 12-17, 2017. In collaboration with the UU Fellowship of Northern Nevada, youth will be invited to participate in a UU College of Social Justice trip to the Arizona/Mexico border. Info about the BorderLinks trip can be found here: <http://uucsj.org/journeys/borderlinks/>

More information will be shared at our informational meeting on December 11th after the services.

FULL COMMUNITY PAGEANT: DECEMBER 18

Interested in participating? Contact Kristin! Also, find information on page 9 of this newsletter.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE: UNTIL DECEMBER 24

On November 20th, UUCM kicked off our Guest at Your Table program in conjunction with UUs from around the country. Bring back your filled boxes at our Christmas Eve service when we will participate in a collective offering of our gifts. If you haven't yet received your box, pick one up any Sunday!

FULL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SERVICE:

DECEMBER 25

One service at 11:30am; no Religious Education classes Full Community Cider service: January 1 One service at 11:30 A.M.; no Religious Education classes

FULL COMMUNITY CIDER SERVICE: JANUARY 1

One service at 11:30 A.M.; no Religious Education classes

Join Us!

SUNDAY MORNING RE FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sundays, 9:45 A.M. at UUCM:

Classes are offered for children and youth during the first service. Child care is provided during both services.

YOUTH MUSIC

Wednesdays, 5-6 P.M. in the Sanctuary:

All ages are invited to this terrific program which will continue again this year. (Check the calendar beforehand – schedules may change). Contact Jordan: music@uugrassvalley.org or Kristin: education@uugrassvalley.org.

YOUTH STUDIO:

Thursdays, 4-5 P.M. in Upstairs RE Room

A one-hour gathering for all ages to create in community. There will be art supplies and exercises available, but feel free to bring anything you are working on or wanting to share. (Check the calendar beforehand – schedules may change).

BRUNCH BUNCH:

First Sunday of the Month,

9:45 A.M.

All youth (6th-12th grade) are invited to attend "Brunch Bunch" on the first Sunday of most months. Bring your own \$\$ or contact Kristin for support (education@uugrassvalley.org).

We Are Hiring!

Do you know of someone who would be terrific at caring for our youngest members? We are hiring a child care coordinator and would love your support in finding someone to join our team of folks caring for our children. The full job description can be found here: <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Child-Care-Provider-job-description.pdf>. Resumes and questions can be sent to Kristin at education@uugrassvalley.org.



The Office

Conrad Sisk
UUCM Office Administrator

Office Hours in December and January

By Conrad Sisk, Office Administrator

Regular office hours are:

Monday – Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

In December, our office administrator will be away Thursday, December 8 and Monday, December 26 – Thursday, December 29.

Monday, January 9 – Thursday, January 12, our office administrator will be working remotely. You can contact the office via email (admin@uugrassvalley.org) during this time, but the office in the building will not be open, and our office administrator will not be responding to phone messages left after Thursday, January 5 until Monday, January 15.

December 2016 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
DECEMBER			
1	Thursday	8:30 10:30 4:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Group Book Club – WUC Youth Studio
4	Sunday	9:45 9:45 10:50 10:50 11:30 1:15	First Sunday: Bring Food! Brunch Bunch for Youth Sunday Service & RE Classes Social Time & "A Board Member is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Defying the Nazis Movie Screening
6	Tuesday	9:00 4:00 5:30 7:00	Meditation Caring Committee Meeting Membership Committee Meeting Full Spectrum Membership Webinar
7	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Group Youth Music Choir Rehearsal
8	Thursday	8:30 10:30 4:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Youth Studio
11	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service & RE Classes Social Time & "A Board Member is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service
12	Monday	6:00	Women's Circle & Potluck/Off Site
13	Tuesday	9:00 5:00	Meditation Board of Trustees Meeting
14	Wednesday	8:30 11:00 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Youth Music Choir Rehearsal
15	Thursday	8:30 10:00 10:30 4:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Social Justice Committee Meeting Men's Group Book Club – WUC Youth Studio
16	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
17	Saturday	9:00 12:30	Building & Grounds Work Party Building & Grounds Meeting
18	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 10:50 11:30 12:30	Sunday Service & RE Classes Q & A Conversation with Kevin Social Time & "A Board Member is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Q&A Conversation with Kevin

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
19	Monday	9:00	Mountain Chalice Submissions Due
20	Tuesday	9:00 5:00	Meditation Yule Service
21	Wednesday	8:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Youth Music Choir Rehearsal
22	Thursday	8:30 10:30 4:00 6:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Youth Studio Worship Committee Meeting
24	Saturday	5:00	Christmas Eve Service
25	Sunday	11:30	Sunday Service Christmas Day
ONE SERVICE ONLY			
27	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
28	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
29	Thursday	8:30 4:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Youth Studio
30	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
JANUARY			
1	Sunday	11:30	First Sunday: Bring Food! Sunday Service
ONE SERVICE ONLY			
3	Tuesday	9:00 4:00	Meditation Caring Committee Meeting
4	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Youth Music Choir Rehearsal
5	Thursday	8:30 10:30 4:00	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Men's Group Book Club – WUC Youth Studio
7	Saturday	9:30	Soul Matters Introductory Circle
8	Sunday	9:45 10:50 10:50 10:50 11:30 12:30	Sunday Service & RE Classes Q & A Conversation with Kevin Social Time & "A Board Member is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Q&A Conversation with Kevin
9	Monday	6:00	Women's Circle & Potluck



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: 530.274.1675

Website: www.uugrassvalley.org

Sunday Services at 9:45 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

admin@uugrassvalley.org

music@uugrassvalley.org

education@uugrassvalley.org

TELEPHONE

530.274.1661

530.274.1675

530.274.1675

530.274.1675

