

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

December 2015

## 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.

...

**November 29**    **Rev. Lynn Gardner**  
Worship Associate: *Sam Lautzenhiser*

Rev. Lynn Gardner serves as co-minister of the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists. She is very fond of stories, yoga, rivers, hiking, and delicious food. She shares her life with Rev. Wendy Bartel, their daughter, Meghan, and their small, shy dog, Luna.

**December 6**    **Rev. David Usher**  
With hymns chosen by *Lynn Whitson*

Pass the Plate for Interfaith Food Ministry. Please also bring gifts of non-perishable food for this vital Food Ministry.

**December 13**    **Rev. David Usher**  
With hymns chosen by *Scottie Hart*

**December 20**    **Rev. David Usher**  
Music: *UUCM Choir*

**December 24**    **Carol Service - 5:00 p.m.**  
Music: *UUCM Choir*

**December 27**    **Rev. David Usher**  
*Please note: Only ONE service at 9:45 a.m.*

**January 3**    **Rev. David Usher**  
With hymns chosen by *Kathryn Young*

Pass the Plate for Western Sierra YouthBuild. Please also bring gifts of non-perishable food for the Interfaith Food Ministry.

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*Rev. David Usher  
UUCM Interim Minister*

## *Minister's Letter*

Dear Friends,

It seems to have started earlier this year than usual – people indignantly claiming there is a “war on Christmas” because some businesses and institutions (Starbucks is the target of choice this time) prefer to be non-specific in their holiday salutations or observances. Starbucks is a corporation I do not normally find myself defending, but obviously not all their customers are Christian. Having generic coffee cups seems a logical gesture of inclusivity.

I do not consider myself to be Christian in any traditional way, but personally, I like to celebrate Christmas. I do so with my own theological understanding of what Christmas means, and that includes the recognition that it is an appropriation from older Pagan festivals. For me, Christmas is directly meaningful in ways which Solstice and Kwanzaa and Hannukah and Diwali and other festivals which occur at this time of year are not. So I am in the habit of wishing people Merry Christmas.

Because of my respect for the diversity among us, I take absolutely no offence if someone chooses to wish me a more generic Happy Holidays, just as I take no offence if a Muslim wishes me Happy Eid, because I understand and appreciate that person's intent is to offer me the blessing of the tradition which is important to them. Please know that if I wish you Merry Christmas, I do so because that is the salutation which is meaningful to me. If you need to translate it into language meaningful to you, please do so, and return your good greeting to me in your language.

This is also the season of platitudes about peace on earth and goodwill to all. I've recently been thinking about the words that Lao Tse wrote more than 2,500 years ago:

*If there is to be peace in the world,  
There must be peace in the nations.*

*If there is to be peace in the nations,  
There must be peace in the cities.*

*If there is to be peace in the cities,  
There must be peace between neighbors.*

*If there is to be peace between neighbors,  
There must be peace in the home.*

*If there is to be peace in the home,  
There must be peace in the heart.*

UUCM is a laboratory in which we each try to learn peace in the heart, in whatever language or imagery is personally meaningful to us, so that we can be at peace with and offering goodwill to each other and beyond, rippling ever outwards from that peaceful core. Part of that goodwill is the assumption that the other person has good intention. That requires good listening as well as good speaking. In our case at UUCM, it requires embracing the Covenant of Right Relations. (Our UUCM Covenant can be found on page 5.) This community is meant to be the place where we call ourselves to our highest aspirations. Let's offer ourselves this gift, not only at this season, but all of the time. This is how peace on earth will actually come into being.

Whatever the language you use, whichever seasonal festival speaks to your heart and mind, I trust this will be a happy and joy-filled time, and that you are anticipating 2016 with confidence and hope.

*See you in church!*

*David*

*"It is not the task of religion to provide easy answers to every question, but to make us progressively aware of a mystery. God is not so much the object of our knowledge as the cause of our wonder."*

*– Kallistos Ware*

## *You Choose the Hymns*

Starting in December, members of the congregation are being asked to choose three hymns for the services, either because they simply are favorites or because they have special associations. The hymns can tie in with the theme of the day's service or not. If you would like to choose the hymns for the services one Sunday, please speak to the minister.

## *Volunteer Opportunities*

There is a new brochure, *Committees at UUCM*, outlining the various committees which would appreciate your participation. Please consider ways in which you can contribute. There is also a Volunteer sheet suggesting other one-off ways in which you can be involved. Please fill it out and return it to the Office as soon as possible.

## Board's Perspective



Amy René Patterson  
UUCM Vice President

Hello Beloved Community,

The Board wants to sincerely thank our Search Team for the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop that they organized in November. Jo Victoria was engaging, and the workshop was a heart opening and enlightening experience (the soups were yummy too). We share Jo Victoria's respect for our Search Team and the joyful way they are working together; it is inspiring. Whenever you have the opportunity, be sure to thank the Search Team members; they are putting in many long hours with grace.

The dull but important work of policy development continues. The policies that UUCM develops over the years provide essential guidelines for consistent and reasoned approaches to the various aspects of congregational life. After almost two years in development, and in coordination with the stake holders, the Building Use Policy was approved this month. It takes the burden off our Social Justice Committee (where the responsibility has been), and allows our office administrator to handle routine bookings. Janet Dunstan has worked tirelessly on this and other policies; it has taken enormous tenacity and flexibility to bring these new policies to completion. We thank Janet for the gift of her time and talent.

Our new Communications Policy is the culmination of over eight months of hard work by many people. Together we have made profound improvements to *The Mountain Chalice*, (thank you, Kathryn) and added a new weekly E-Chalice. We post the Board Minutes in the hall, and have added a new Member Forum. Your Board is aware that the important work of communications never ends; with that in mind we have decided to have a Town Talk, right after second service, on Sunday, November 29, 2015.

The Member Forum looks to be a great hit with over 80 members signed up. We thank Conrad and Dawn for all their hard work. If you haven't signed up or visited the Forum yet, we encourage you to do so; and remember that Conrad is available to help.

The Board wants to assure you that while Rob is away caring for his family, the rest of your Board of Trustees will diligently carry on the work of the governance of our Beloved Community.

- Amy René

### UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

Rob Ferroggiaro, *President*  
Amy René 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.*

### Board of Trustees November Meeting Highlights

- The Board scheduled a Town Talk to be held Sunday November 29, 2015 after the second service
- The Board approved the Communications Policy
- The Board approved the Building Use Policy
- As last year's Vision Day for leaders was so successful, the Board agreed to schedule another in January; specific date to be announced
- The Board will be reaching out to leaders in order to begin to organize a team that will create a Long Term Facilities Options Plan (5 year)

### 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.

# Search Committee

## BCT and Beyond

Approximately 35 UUCM members braved the welcome rain to participate in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop. By the time we were finished, we knew more about ourselves, our community and opportunities that exist for us as we search for a new settled minister.

The facilitator from UUA, Jo Victoria, presented some sobering statistics about the search process. Prior to 2014 (the years designate the start year for the minister, so we are part of the 2016 search) it was typical to have 40 congregations in search among 120-130 ministerial candidates. Starting in 2014 there has been a large shift.

In 2014 110 ministers searched for 60 positions. In 2015 110 ministers searched among 45 positions, but in 2016 there are 63 openings, and UUCM is one of them. We don't know yet how many ministers will be in search, but there is no reason to believe it will jump commensurately with the increase in the number of vacancies. In an average year, 6 congregations do not find a minister. With more congregations in search this year, that number is likely to be higher.

The UUA began the BCT program several years ago when they noticed that ministers of color (including Latina/o/Hispanic), ministers with disabilities, and LGBT ministers were disproportionately overlooked or came in second. A vast resource was being underutilized. Jo reminded us that all fellowshiped ministers have at least a Masters of Divinity. They are all well-educated and have undergone training and vetting by the UUA. All are well-qualified, and one of them may be our perfect match.

The workshop began with a mini survey where each person checked off concerns they might have personally or they thought the congregation might have relative to racial issues, disability issues and LGBT issues. The participants broke into groups to discuss how their life might have been different if they had been born a different race, sexuality or had a disability.

In another group exercise we discussed some true life scenarios of issues that had been reported by ministers,



## YOUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Taylor Carey, *Chair*

George Dunstan, *Associate Chair*

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

with our focus being: whose issue is this? and how can it be addressed?

Finally, we discussed the results of the day's mini survey. As to ministers of color, many people listed a concern that our community is very white. Jo assured us that any candidate will have researched the demographics before applying and knows we are a predominately white congregation in a white community.

For ministers with a disability the biggest concern was that they might not have the stamina to do the job, followed closely with concerns about the inaccessible parts of our building. Our facilitator said people tend to think in extremes. Not all people with a mobility issue use a

wheelchair, not all with hearing loss are deaf, nor does vision-impaired mean blind etc. As to the stamina question, we should not be expecting more than 40 hours per week from any minister!

For LGBT ministers the most mentioned concern is that we may not be as welcoming as we think we are, followed with concern that the person would have a single-issue agenda. The single-issue concern was also raised regarding ministers of color. UUA statistics show that if a minister mentions their difference only three times during a year (i.e. out of approximately 40 services) they are pegged as a single-issue minister!

People also saw benefits in calling one of these ministers. For all three groups, almost half the participants said such a minister would educate us. Jo cautioned that it is not the job of the minister to educate us about their difference. First of all, we should be seeking to be educated on our own whether or not we call such a minister. Secondly, and most importantly, the characteristic that makes us view them as different is only one of their many characteristics. It does not define them.

If some of the concerns expressed surprise you or if you feel a little guilty that you are not as open as you thought you were, do not judge yourself or others. We are all works in progress.

*Continued on page 5*



## Search Committee

In the words of Rev. Richard S. Gilbert:

*Do not let the incompleteness weigh on your spirit;  
Do not despair that imperfection marks your every day;  
Do not fear that we are still in the making.*

*Let us instead be grateful that the world is still to be created;  
Let us give thanks that we can be more than we are;  
Let us celebrate the power of the incomplete;  
For life is always unfinished business.*

We received a very enthusiastic response to our Congregational Record that we sent to Bob Miess, our guide and mentor in the search process. He did propose some minor edits which we are working on now. We will submit them to him by November 30 and once approved, our CR will be available to ministers in search.

The Search Committee will soon be posting a timeline so that you can more easily see what we have accomplished so far and what yet needs to be done.

*Blessings,  
The Search Committee*

## Please Join Us for a Town Talk!

**Sunday, November 29, 2015  
12:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary**

*Join us for a casual conversation with board members,  
search committee members, and others about what's going on  
at the UU Community of the Mountains.  
Topics for discussion will be decided by those  
in attendance.*

## 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](mailto:suzanneferro17@gmail.com)  
David Ferrier [davidsdrums@gmail.com](mailto:davidsdrums@gmail.com)

Due to significant demands of her personal and work lives, (seriously ill family members and a mosaic of three jobs), Susan Sanford is stepping off the Transition Team. She's grateful for the opportunity she's had to serve on the TT and looks forward to participating in other aspects of UUCM life as time allows.

After Board of Trustees approval, announcements will be forthcoming about new members of the TT/COM.

Our next meeting will be December 3rd.

## Our Covenant of Right Relations

- Recognizing that conflict is normal in human relations and wishing to relate to others as harmoniously as possible, I sincerely intend to:
  - Treat others with kindness, empathy and respect.
  - Communicate with patience, flexibility, and a willingness to negotiate in the spirit of meeting as many needs as possible.
  - Be aware of my own thoughts, feelings, and needs, and share them directly and honestly with others, without judgment or blame.
  - Invite and listen to all points of view, respecting others' feelings and needs and encouraging minority opinions.
  - Take responsibility for my own mental, emotional, and spiritual balance, asking for support when I need it.
  - Be mindful of the needs of the group as a whole, mourning together when individual needs cannot be met.

# Membership and Building & Grounds

## 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  
[kathryneyounguu@gmail.com](mailto:kathryneyounguu@gmail.com)

## 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 Coming!

Look for sign-up sheets in the entry area this December for a variety of Circle Suppers to be held on a few weekends in January. Circle Suppers are simple potlucks held in members' homes affording you the opportunity to get to know fellow UUs on a deeper, more personal level. We have a number of generous hosts who are looking forward to breaking bread with other UUCM members, friends and visitors.

We particularly encourage new members and visitors to sign up as the suppers are a great way to get connected, and make new friends. Please sign up for only one supper so we can accommodate as many people as possible! If you have questions, please contact Kathryn Young, [kathryneyounguu@gmail.com](mailto:kathryneyounguu@gmail.com).

## BUILDING & GROUNDS WORK DAYS

Wally Holtan, *chair*, [uucmgv@gmail.com](mailto:uucmgv@gmail.com)

Third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 A.M. to noon, followed by lunch and a meeting. Please join us; many hands make light work and more fun.

## Building & Grounds Report

By Wally Holtan, *Chair*,  
Building and Grounds Committee

### WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE:

Congratulations! In the last month UUCM has used 89% less water per day than any of our neighbors. Our water usage has been below 89 gallons per day. Thank you to everyone for being conscientious with your water use at UUCM.

### NOVEMBER B&G MEETING:

Last month, we discussed defining of a list of projects and goals for UUCM over the next 10 years. We will be working on a number of projections: for the short term (1-2 years), medium term (2-5 years) and long term (10 years). This information will help us estimate the cost of maintaining and improving the condition of our campus through the next 10 years. We may ask some of you to help with this evaluation, and I hope you will participate.

### WORK DAY:

Last month a great group of volunteers met for three hours and accomplished a lot including cleaning chairs and sanctuary windows, replacing two banner rods, and reorganizing cabinets. Outside we cleaned up the yard and garden, hung the "Black Lives Matter" banner, cleaned the roof, installed an electrical plug in the backyard, and began reorganizing the garages. It was a fulfilling day and I thank everyone for their help. Remember, YOU also could help with the next list of projects. Try it – you may even enjoy yourself!

### THOUGHTS:

I have found the act of working on our grounds and building very rewarding, and many of our work day volunteers feel the same. Our external appearance is the face we put forward to the greater community; the first impression that people get when they walk by our church. First impressions can be a strong influence on whether people look more deeply into a potential interest. We are proud of the members of our community that help us create positive first impressions. If you enjoy working on projects that will be appreciated by others, consider volunteering for just three hours in a month. Saturday, December 19th is the next work day, weather permitting.

### SPECIAL THANKS:

This month we recognize David Edwards for his behind-the-scenes work including providing our fans, the safety fence on Walsh St, repairing the railings and cracked cement on both our front doors, and most recently, installing outside electrical outlets in the backyard, as well as many other small repairs that are too numerous to mention. Please thank him for all his work the next time you see him.

# Caring Committee

## Caring Committee Notes

By Gwen Eymann, Chair, Caring Committee

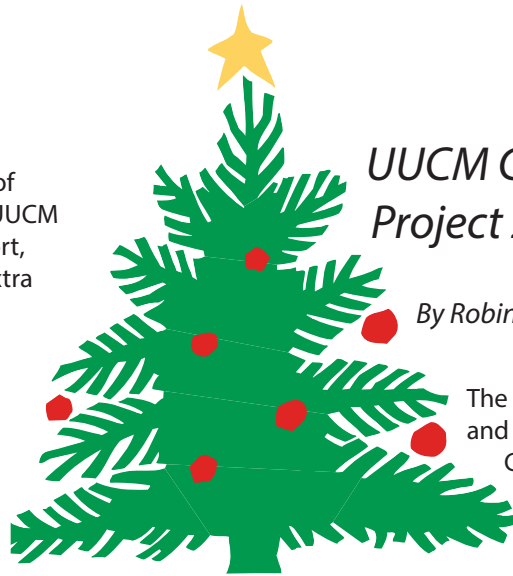
The Caring Committee serves the UUCM community by offering support, help, and contact to folks during times of special need. We, as a community, can all be part of the UUCM Caring Team by reaching out to each other to offer support, kind words, offers of help, and good works. Please give extra support and caring to the following people:

- **Rob Ferroggiaro's** sister suffered a recent stroke. Rob and Suzanne will be out of town for the next several weeks caring for their family.
- **Beth Karow** is suffering from debilitating back pain. We miss her caring and colorful presence at UUCM.
- We mourn the loss of **Bill Toensing**, one of UUCM's founding members, who passed away Friday, November 13. Please keep Bill's wife, **Joan**, and his family in your thoughts. Details about his memorial service will be announced as soon as they are known.
- **Donna Foddrell** has been having problems with her vision, which has left her unable to drive at night. She greatly appreciates offers of rides to UUCM events. She lives off Hwy 49 near Alta Sierra if you can help.
- **Leal Portis** was nominated Nevada County Volunteer of the Year. What an honor it is to be recognized for all of her hours of service over the years.
- **Corrie Silva** is celebrating the birth of her grandson, Kirin. Congratulations to Corrie and her family.

UUCM Caring Committee is launching its annual **Christmas Giving Project**. See the next article for details.

There's now a Joys & Concerns topic on our online Forum, where you are welcome to write a sorrow or a joy, and others can read it and respond. This is a good addition to our current procedure of writing in a book for pastoral prayer, since it is more immediate and gives us another way to offer support, help, and contact, especially for those who don't come to all the services. If you're not on the Forum yet, you can get phone help from Conrad in the UUCM Office (530-274-1675), and Annie Haymaker (530-477-0701) is willing to provide hands-on help in your home.

The *Mountain Chalice* Caring Notes come from individuals and from specific notes in our Joys and Concerns Caring Book. If you do not wish to have your words in the Mountain Chalice, please make a note in the Joys and Concerns book. The UUCM Caring Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. We may be contacted via email at [caring.committee@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:caring.committee@uugrassvalley.org) or by calling Gwen Eymann at 530-274-7965 for more information.



## UUCM Giving Tree Project 2015

By Robin Hart

The holidays are here again and it's time again for the Caring Committee to host the *Giving Tree Project*.

This year we have adopted four families from Women of Worth's Ho Ho Ho Christmas project.

Sunday, November 22nd, the tree was decorated with gift tags for needy families, with their Christmas wishes. The Giving Tree and sign-up clipboard will be in the foyer at the front of the church. A Caring Elf will be at the tree to assist you. Please adopt a tag to purchase a gift and make someone's holiday brighter. Purchased gifts need to be turned back in to the Caring Committee by Sunday, December 6th.

Please do not leave gifts at the tree during the week when there is no one to receive them for security reasons. Any questions, or to arrange drop off of your gifts if you cannot make it to Sunday service, please contact Robin Hart (530-271-7121, [rstarbird@gmail.com](mailto:rstarbird@gmail.com)).

## 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](mailto:eymann@sbcglobal.net)

## Social Justice Notes

By Keith Johnson, Social Justice Chair

So much is going on with Social Justice it's hard to keep up. Listed below are some of our partners and UUCM's recent collaboration with them. Some are new friends, some are old ones, and lots of great stuff is happening.

### UU COLLEGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

UUCSJ sponsors summer justice trips for high school youth. Next summers' trips are to Boston, New Orleans, and Tucson. Several RE youth have been briefed and they are excited about the opportunities.

### INTER-FAITH FOOD MINISTRY

Seven new UUCM volunteers have come on board with more on the way.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Four new volunteers have said count me in.

### SIERRA STREAMS INSTITUTE

Five new volunteers for office work and stream monitoring.

### SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

Three new volunteers. In addition, an advocacy campaign to oppose the Centennial Reservoir is being discussed.

### WESTERN SIERRA YOUTHBUILD

Anita Bagwell, Executive Director of WSYB, has been invited to UUCM for Pass the Plate and an afternoon workshop in January.

### RESTAURANT OPPORTUNITIES CENTERS

A study group has met and read *Behind the Kitchen Door*. A representative from ROC will be invited to speak at UUCM.

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION FOR WATER

A minister active with EJCW has been contacted and she has agreed to come to UUCM for a sermon and workshop.

### ECONOMIC JUSTICE ACTION TEAM

UUCM has joined the Action Team and monthly conference calls with other team members have been scheduled. A Make It Fair Campaign (concerning Prop 13) and other advocacy work is being planned.

### HOSPITALITY HOUSE

In addition to providing meals, we are exploring ways to help HH with their new thrift store. The idea of a winter overflow shelter has recently been resurrected.

Sound interesting? Feeling left out?  
Just give me a call at 265-0277.

## Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepare Meals at Utah's Place

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 4:00 P.M.

By Leal Portis

UUCM's dinner crew provides dinner for residents of the Hospitality House on 3rd and 5th Fridays every month. We are always in need of volunteers to cook and folks to either provide part of the food or donate money to shop. We also leave food for breakfast – no more cereal as they have to take a bag breakfast now. If you can help, please contact Leal at 530-265-3887 or [portis.leal@gmail.com](mailto:portis.leal@gmail.com).

## Give the Gift of Christmas Meals through Interfaith Food Ministry

By Leal Portis

Interfaith Food Ministry (IFM) is partnering with the Food Bank of Nevada County (FBNC) in the distribution of holiday meals. A \$20 contribution provides a Christmas meal for one family. You can mail your gifts to: 440 Henderson St, Grass Valley, CA 95945. Or you can donate through IFM's website at [www.interfaithfoodministry.org](http://www.interfaithfoodministry.org).

If you struggle finding the perfect gift to slip in a stocking or to mail to a family member or friend, IFM has a solution for you: Give the gift of sponsorship! Send your contribution to Interfaith Food Ministry, and then pick up a sponsorship certificate from the office at the UU Community of the Mountains. The certificate makes a great gift, and reads:

*A family in Nevada County has been given a holiday meal  
in your name by Interfaith Food Ministry.*

If you would like more information about this please email IFM through the website or directly at [info@interfaithfoodministry.org](mailto:info@interfaithfoodministry.org).





# Social Justice Activities

## UUCM's Leal Portis - Nominee Honored in the Inaugural "Senior Volunteer of the Year" Program

By Robin Hart

On Tuesday, November 17th, the Elder Care Provider Coalition hosted its inaugural "Senior Volunteer of the Year" Program at the Atria Senior Living facility in Grass Valley. Leal Portis was one of 10 "Super Seniors" who was honored at the event. She received a framed certificate for her exceptional service to the Nevada County community.

Besides being a founding member of UUCM for over 20 years, she has been an exemplary volunteer in more than eight organizations and charities in Nevada County, as well as spearheading several social justice causes at the church. She has worked tirelessly for Lions Club, Hospitality House (where she coordinates bi-monthly meals and bingo games for the residents), Interfaith Food Ministry (where she serves on the board of directors as representative from UUCM), Grandmothers For Peace, The Grandmothers for Peace annual scholarship program (where Leal personally reviews hundreds of essay submissions from the applicants), The League of Women Voters, and TOPS. Leal also co-chaired a mental health study, and sponsors placing foreign high school exchange students from Europe and Asia with families every year.

Leal has worked with all these groups and causes with enthusiasm, but life threw her a curve ball a few years ago, when she was diagnosed with lung cancer and then suffered a stroke. At the same time she was also caregiver to her husband, who was dealing with major health problems too. He died three years ago, but Leal just keeps going.

Leal has remarked that doing for others is what has given her the strength to carry on and that she is "one tough cookie" who loves giving back to her community.

Congratulate Leal when you next see her. But be careful, she might rope you in to help with her next project! She is a UU who lives her principles, and makes a huge difference to a great many people.

## GREEN Power Points

By Anita Wald-Tuttle, Chair,  
Green Sanctuary Sub-Committee of SJCC

As the holidays approach, make a conscious effort to avoid mainstream advertising-supported media, and chances are you'll want less – and spend less – this holiday season. This goes double for the kids in your life: the cost of advertising directed at children is estimated at more than \$15 billion annually, and the average child today is exposed to an estimated 40,000 television commercials a year - more than 100 a day. Check out Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood: <http://www.commercialfreechildhood.org/>.

Got a kid on your Christmas list, and spooked about toxic toys? Check out [www.healthytoys.org](http://www.healthytoys.org) and shop smart.

This holiday season, give a child a gift that gets them outside and excited about nature: a guidebook to rocks, birds, plants, or flowers in your area; a membership at a local science or nature center; or a plant or animal of their very own.

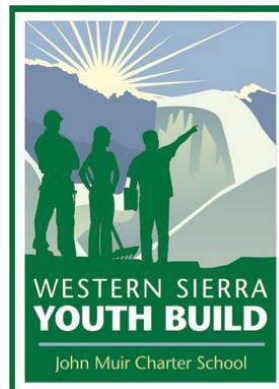
Season's Greetings! Everyone!

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

## Western Sierra YouthBuild Presenting Town Talk in January

By Beryl Beckwith

Meet one of our new Social Justice partners: Western Sierra YouthBuild. WSYB is a California public charter school providing academic and vocational training to young people ages 18-25 in need of a high school diploma. Students participate in academics, vocational training, life skills and career development classes, as well as leadership development and community service activities.



On Sunday, January 3, Anita Bagwell, Executive Director of WSYB, has been invited to UUCM for Pass the Plate. After the second service, come to the Channing Room for a town talk style forum to meet her, brain-storm ideas and find out more about this wonderful organization and how UUCM can partner with them to make a difference.

## Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

### Winter Boutique and Silent Auction

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 6 AND 13  
FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

Our winter fundraiser will be held on two consecutive Sundays; December 6th and 13th, from 9:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. each day. The coordinator, Lin Jovanović, is eagerly awaiting your donations of gift quality items, holiday food items (e.g., baked items, your signature chili rub), and silent auction items (services, cozy dinners, etc.). Please contact her for more information ([linmosaic@yahoo.com](mailto:linmosaic@yahoo.com) or 530-798-4773). Help make our fundraising successful again this year!

### Celebrating the Simple Joys of Friendship: UUCM Holiday Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 12:30 P.M.

FOLLOWING THE SECOND SERVICE

Join us in celebrating the joys of friendship. This is a chance to take a break from the sometimes frantic holiday whirl. Come "play" with us, and visit with friends old and new. We'll share a simple lunch, decorate the chapel, sing holiday songs. And, who knows, we may have some Christmas cookies to enjoy as well.

Everyone is welcome and all you need to bring is yourself! Members, Friends, Visitors, Families....please come. If you would like to learn more, or volunteer to be a helpful elf, contact Kia Hatch at [kiadhatch@comcast.net](mailto:kiadhatch@comcast.net).



### Women's Circle – Christmas Party

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015, 6 P.M.

UUCM women are invited to our annual Christmas party hosted by May Lawrence in her beautiful Nevada City home. Come spend a festive evening with fellow UU women. We'll be doing potluck appetizers and desserts and a "Christmas stocking" gift exchange. (Bring a pair of novelty socks to give.)

RSVP by Friday, December 4 to May Lawrence, and let her know what appetizer or dessert you plan to bring so we can balance the array of food.

May's contact information is: [maylawrence@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maylawrence@sbcglobal.net), or 530-478-9438.



### Story Club of Nevada County Presents:

### The Twelve Days of Christmas Stories

FRIDAYS, DECEMBER 4 AND 11 FROM 6 TO 7:00 P.M.

Rose Gander will be hosting "Story Club" in the foyer at UUCM. She will be reading favorite seasonal stories, along with a gift of a free book to all children who attend. Come join in the fun!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



Claire Miller  
Coordinator of Programs  
for Children and Youth

## Religious Education Updates

### 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.

#### YOUTH CLASS – FOR CHILDREN FROM 12 TO 18 YEARS OLD

We have been discussing social and economic justice issues: What kinds of injustice and inequality exist around us? At a local level? In the larger community? What can we do about it?

In November, we compiled a list of ways that we might be able to make a difference. Teens went home with research assignments. This included ideas for local projects involving a few hours of time, up to week-long social justice trips that could happen during next summer. The following Sunday, we discussed the research in more detail, narrowing down our interests, and deciding which projects we want to focus our time and energy on during the next months.

#### YOUNGER CLASS – FOR CHILDREN FROM 4 TO 12 YEARS OLD

This group has begun a program called “Dancing the Living Tradition”. We take eight well-loved hymns from our *Singing the Living Tradition* and have created simple dances to make them come alive. Children will be discussing the meaning of the words of the songs, and learning to sing them. The morning is rounded out with fun crafts and games, with a variety of themes.

#### Kids Music!

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](mailto:music@uugrassvalley.org)) or Claire (530-205-5324 or [truckeeclaire@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



If you missed the parent information meeting on November 22nd, but have questions or wish to register your child, please contact Claire Miller (530-205-5324 or [truckeeclaire@yahoo.com](mailto:truckeeclaire@yahoo.com)), Paul Elias (530-272-3908 or [pccpaule2000@gmail.com](mailto:pccpaule2000@gmail.com)), or Emily Gallup (530-559-0101 or [emilygallup@yahoo.com](mailto:emilygallup@yahoo.com)).

OWL participation requires pre-registration by December 15, 2015 and parent permission, including a mandatory parent orientation session, Sunday, January 10, 2016, at 1:00 P.M. at UUCM. OWL sessions will be held most Sunday afternoons at UUCM beginning , 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. (lunch provided!). Program fee is \$100.

Facilitators are Emily Gallup, certified OWL instructor and licensed marriage & family therapist (MFT), and Paul Elias, OWL instructor and BA, credentialed K-8th.

For more information or to register, please contact Claire Miller (530-205-5324 or [truckeeclaire@yahoo.com](mailto:truckeeclaire@yahoo.com)).



# Adult Faith Development Opportunities

## Adult Faith Development Prospectus Available

This is now available in the vestibule and on-line on the website (Please see: [www.ugrassvalley.org/prospectus](http://www.ugrassvalley.org/prospectus)). It lists a rich array of Chalice Circles, Classes, Courses, Affinity Groups and other opportunities for you to explore what it is you believe and why, to deepen personal relationships with others, and to stimulate your mind and challenge your curiosity. Be sure to look at it and to sign up soon for whichever courses or groups appeal to you.



## Adult OWL Chalice Circle

OWL (Our Whole Lives) is one of the most important and successful programs offered to our teenagers, but sexuality is for a life-time. This OWL program offers ways for adults to understand and experience their sexuality throughout their lives.

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

Sexuality and Values  
Sexuality and Communication  
Sexuality and Spirituality

Discovering the Sexual Self  
Experiencing the Sexual Other  
Sexual Diversity  
Sexuality and Aging

Register by December 20. To register, or learn more, contact facilitators Lin Jovanovic (209-484-0710, [linmosaic@yahoo.com](mailto:linmosaic@yahoo.com)) or Peter Musser (916-212-5310, [pmusser@gmail.com](mailto:pmusser@gmail.com)). Classes will take place in the Channing Room at UUCM.

### DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Intro session: Saturday, January 9, 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.  
Sessions: First & third Tuesdays, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.  
January 19, February 2, February 16,  
March 1, March 15  
Concluding session: Saturday, March 26, 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

## Chalice Circles

A reminder to check out all the classes, courses and learning opportunities on offer in the Faith Development Prospectus. In particular, Chalice Circles are being offered as an excellent way to get to know others in the congregation at a deeper level while sharing a common interest. If you would like to know more, please contact Phil Hart at [philhart115@gmail.com](mailto:philhart115@gmail.com) or 530-272-6870.

## Life Spirit

Last chance to sign up for this class led by David Usher, based on his book of the same name. It will meet 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. on the first and third Thursday evenings of the month, starting on December 3. The book is available from David Usher or in the office at UUCM for \$15.

# Join the UUCM Ushering Team!

## Come Usher With Us!

Melissa Ridgway,  
Usher Coordinator

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

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

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

Thank you all for your service!

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

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



# December Calendar of Events at UUCM

**DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION**

## NOVEMBER:

25 Wednesday 8:30 Men's Group  
4:00 Finance Committee Meeting

26 Thursday 8:30 Men's Group - What's Up Coffee  
10:30 Writers' Group

29 Sunday 9:45 Sunday Service & RE Classes  
10:50 Drop-in Support Circle  
11:30 Sunday Service  
12:30 Town Talk

## DECEMBER:

1 Tuesday 9:00 Meditation  
5:30 Art & Spirituality Affinity Group

2 Wednesday 8:30 Men's Group  
10:30 Humanism Group  
5:00 Youth Music  
6:30 Choir Rehearsal

3 Thursday 8:30 Men's Group - What's Up Coffee  
10:30 Men's Book Group - WUC  
7:00 Life Spirit Chalice Circle

4 Friday 6:00 Story Club

6 Sunday 9:00 First Sunday: Bring food to donate  
9:45 Winter Boutique  
9:45 Sunday Service & RE Classes  
10:50 Drop-in Support Circle (Upstairs)  
11:30 Sunday Service

7 Monday 7:00 Integral Spiritual Meditation

8 Tuesday 9:00 Meditation  
4:00 Caring Committee  
6:00 Women's Circle - off site

9 Wednesday 8:30 Men's Group  
11:00 Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep  
5:15 Membership Committee Meeting  
6:30 Choir Rehearsal

10 Thursday 8:30 Men's Group - What's Up Coffee  
10:30 Writers' Group  
6:00 Board of Trustees Meeting

11 Friday 6:00 Story Club

**DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION**

13 Sunday 9:00 Winter Boutique  
9:45 Sunday Service & RE Classes  
10:50 Drop-in Support Circle (Upstairs)  
11:30 Sunday Service  
12:30 Holiday Party

15 Tuesday 9:00 Meditation  
5:30 Art & Spirituality Affinity Group

16 Wednesday 8:30 Men's Group  
10:30 Faith Beyond Belief  
5:00 Youth Music  
6:30 Choir Rehearsal

17 Thursday 8:30 Men's Group - What's Up Coffee  
10:30 Men's Book Group - WUC  
11:00 Social Justice Committee Mtg  
7:00 Life Spirit Chalice Circle

18 Friday 4:00 Dinner Prep at Utah's Place

19 Saturday 9:00 Building & Grounds Work Party  
12:30 Building & Grounds Meeting

20 Sunday 9:45 Sunday Service & RE Classes  
10:50 Drop-in Support Circle  
11:30 Sunday Service

22 Tuesday 9:00 Meditation

23 Wednesday 8:30 Men's Group

24 Thursday 5:00 Christmas Eve Carol Service

27 Sunday 9:45 Sunday Service & RE Classes  
10:50 Drop-in Support Circle  
*(Note: only one service)*

28 Monday 12:00 Mt. Chalice Articles Due

29 Tuesday 9:00 Meditation

30 Wednesday 8:30 Men's Group

31 Thursday 8:30 Men's Group - What's Up Coffee

## JANUARY:

3 Sunday 9:45 First Sunday: Bring food to donate  
9:45 Sunday Service & RE Classes  
10:50 Drop-in Support Circle  
11:30 Sunday Service

# Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

**Street Address:** 246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

**Sunday Services** at 9:45 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

**Telephone:** 530-274-1675

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

### E-MAIL ADDRESS

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