

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

May 2015

UPCOMING SERVICES

Two Service Times: 9:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

May 3 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Jennifer Dahlgren

Flower Communion

Since it was first devised roughly eighty years ago by Rev. Norbert Capek, minister of the Unitarian Church in Prague, this has become a favorite with Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. Please remember to bring a flower to share.

May 10 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Lindsay Duncel
Music: Taylor Carey and Kathryn Young

Mothering Sunday

This service will feature members of UUCM talking about three different types of mothering. There will also be a focus on Mental Health as part of our gathering attention to this subject.

May 17 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Gail Johnson Vaughan
Music: Choir

Celebration of Generosity Campaign

Celebrate the unprecedented generosity of members and friends in their giving to UUCM's mission to Seek; Savor and Serve. Today's Pass the Plate offering will benefit SimpleGifts.

May 24 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Jerry Jacoby

This service will be the product of the Worship Workshop being held the previous day, when those interested will have gathered to generate a service from scratch.

May 31 **Rev. David Usher**
Worship Associate: Gail Johnson Vaughan
Music: Randy McKean and Liz McAllister

Celebrate the many facets of UUCM's life: the recognition and welcome of new members; a bridging ceremony, and appreciation for all who have contributed with their energy and talent throughout the year. During the second service the children and youth will offer their own presentation.

June 7 **Rev. Meghan Conrad Cefalu**
Worship Associate: Bev Lyon

Welcome Rev. Meghan, UUCM's former settled minister, back in California after her year long ministry in Massachusetts.

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*Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister*

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Presidential hopefuls from both parties are starting to declare their ambitions for the White House, and some of those aspirants have been couching their vision for the country in unapologetically theocratic language. They evidently believe that the United States is a uniquely privileged country, and that God is an American citizen. No, more than that, God is a white American citizen who also happens to be a member of the politician's own ultra conservative Christian church and who delights in that politician's desire for the US's unfettered political, economic and military domination of the rest of the world. Meanwhile, on May 7 the United Kingdom will be holding its own national election, and the political rhetoric in that fair land, though not overtly religious as it is here, has been enriched (or impoverished!) by quasi apocalypticism.

I do not believe that the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth is synonymous with one party or another occupying the White House or having a majority in Congress. I do not believe God, if such there be, is any more interested in our petty partisan politicking than s/he is in who wins the football game.

I do believe, however, that faith belongs in the public square, and it has long been a cornerstone of Unitarian Universalism that we must take our values into the public arena. Most of our true heroes and champions in the past are remembered not for their theological sophistication or their personal piety, but for their commitment to the common weal, often in the face of harsh criticism in their own time. We remember Theodore Parker for his passionate abolitionist advocacy. Do we remember that he was ostracized by his fellow Unitarians because of it?

The pseudo Christian posturing of some presidential hopefuls I find deeply offensive. I wonder how they reconcile the virulence of their xenophobia, their crusade against women and those of a sexual orientation other than their own, their hatred of the poor and dispossessed, their devotion to unbridled capitalism and the accumulation of wealth for the few, with their endless incantations of the name of Jesus. That same Jesus who unequivocally enjoined his followers to love their enemies and be hospitable to foreigners and strangers, who treated women as equals, who denounced those addicted to money, whose kingdom was for the poor, the weak and the marginalized.

Those politicians are entitled to bring their faith to the market square and the political arena. Indeed, they should do. And we are entitled to challenge them on it, to demand that their confessions of faith are matched by the compassion of their actions. And we should ensure that our own confessions of faith are equally heard and heeded.

See you in church!

David

Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health Study Group

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 7:00 P.M. AT UUCM

This will have its third meeting on Thursday 21st at 7.00, when we look at steps 5 – 8 inclusive. If you have not been part of the group yet but would like to be, you are welcome to come along.

Copies of the book are available from David Usher for \$15.

Worship Seminar at UUCM

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 9:00 A.M. TO ~3:00 P.M.

Have you ever wondered what it takes to create a worship service? On Saturday, May 23, there will be a Workshop for those who would like to create a service spontaneously out of nothing. Gathering at 9 in the morning, whoever turns up will be given the charge of creating the service for the following day – choosing a theme, allocating parts, creating a ritual, whatever it might be. It will be an experiment in spontaneity. Rev. David will be on hand to guide and assist as necessary, but with as light a touch as possible. The workshop will end no later than 3.00 p.m. Come on Saturday to be part of this creative spontaneity, or come on Sunday to marvel at the talents of others. Snacks and drinks will be provided, but please bring your own lunch.

David Usher in Australia May 31 – June 16

Rev. David will be visiting his daughter in Melbourne, flying out of San Francisco on the evening of May 31, returning June 16. He will be checking e-mails regularly while away, but in the event of a pastoral emergency, please in the first instance contact the Church Office.

More from the Minister...

Dear UUCM, A LETTER FROM MEGHAN...

I am coming to UUCM to guest preach on June 7th and I can hardly wait to see your bright smiling faces! After thoughtful consideration Rev. David Usher and I determined that this would be good timing for my visit. It will be a year and a half since last I stood in that beautiful pulpit and preached my farewell sermon.

So much has happened in each of our lives over the last 18 months! Sadly, the ministerial position I took in Boston turned out to not be a good fit and I resigned at the end of last year. I am back living in Petaluma, California for the time being awaiting my next position, most likely as an interim minister beginning in the fall.

I look forward to learning the news of the congregation, visiting with old friends and meeting those who are newer. Come for the service (and a hug!) and stay for a potluck lunch afterward.

Blessings,

Rev. Meghan Conrad Cefalu

Reverend Meghan Conrad Cefalu to Guest Preach at UUCM on "Life Before Death"

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 9:45 A.M. AND 11:30 A.M.

For many people the debate over what happens to us after our death holds great fascination. I am more interested in how we choose to live. Are you choosing to be as awake and present to your life as you possibly can?

Potluck Lunch with Meghan

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 12:45 P.M.

Bring a dish to share and we'll celebrate Meghan's visit with a potluck lunch after the second service. Sandwiches, salads, finger foods, beverages.... Bring your favorites! Leave your food off in the kitchen and/or the Alcott Room next to the kitchen before the service. ALSO - Can you help set up and or clean up? We could use some volunteers on that day to set up serving tables, get out silverware, plates, napkins, etc., so that we can begin eating right after the service.

Meditation from April 12 Earth Day Service

By THICH NHAT HANH

The bells of mindfulness are calling out to us, trying to wake us up, reminding us to look deeply at our impact on the planet.

The bells of mindfulness are sounding. All over the Earth, we are experiencing floods, droughts, and massive wildfires. Sea ice is melting in the Arctic and hurricanes and heat waves are killing thousands. The forests are fast disappearing, the deserts are growing, species are becoming extinct every day, and yet we continue to consume, ignoring the ringing bells.



All of us know that our beautiful green planet is in danger. Our way of walking on the Earth has a great influence on animals and plants. Yet we act as if our daily lives have nothing to do with the condition of the world. We are like sleepwalkers, not knowing what we are doing or where we are heading. Whether we can wake up or not depends on whether we can walk mindfully on our Mother Earth. The future of all life, including our own, depends on our mindful steps.

We have to hear the bells of mindfulness that are sounding all across the planet. We have to start learning how to live in a way that a future will be possible for our children and our grandchildren.

Bill Drake Offers Discount on his Book about Unlearning Prejudice

We are very grateful to Bill Drake and Jamal Walker for their contributions to our service on April 16. If you would like a copy of Bill Drake's book, "Almost Hereditary: A White Southerner's Journey Out of Racism", at the discounted price of \$15 (usually \$20) you can contact him directly by calling 530.265.2084 or e-mailing him at: billdrake2@gmail.com

For more information about Bill's book and his mission to teach others to unlearn racism and prejudice, please take a look at his website: <http://almosthereditaryunlearningprejudice.com/>



Rob Ferroggiaro
UUCM President

President's Perspective

Board of Trustees April Meeting Highlights

- The time of the June 11th board of trustees meeting has been changed to 1:30 PM. This change was made to enable Rev. David to participate via Skype while he is in Australia.
- The Board reviewed financial reports for this fiscal year (2014-15) and preliminary budget forecasts for next year (2015-16). After the Generosity Campaign is complete, we will be in position to decide which program improvements we will fund for next year. The ministerial search and settlement is projected to cost approximately \$20,000 - \$25,000 over the next two years which will likely require us to find income from non-traditional sources.
- The plans and logistics for voting for search committee members were finalized, and responsibilities assigned for handling related tasks.
- Four changes to the bylaws were proposed. The board voted to recommend that the congregation approve the changes at the May 31st General Meeting. The notice of proposed changes will be sent to the membership for review prior to the meeting.
- The Board heard an update regarding the ongoing development of our Child and Youth Safety Policy. The goal is to have the new policy in place by September.

Hello, UUCM!

Spring is always a busy time at UUCM and this year is no exception. In addition to the programs and ministries under way, this is a time when we are undertaking important governance activities that shape our future.

- We are wrapping up our Generosity Campaign with the May 17th Celebration Sunday in sight.
- The process to select our Ministerial Search Committee is underway, and the committee will be introduced in May.
- The Finance Committee, in collaboration with the Board of Trustees, is focused on forecasting this year's financial picture and developing a proposed budget for next fiscal year.
- Preparations are underway for the annual meeting on May 31st at which time we'll elect board members and a nominating committee for 2015-16, approve our budget, and vote to update bylaws.

As always, there are many people who are deeply involved as lay leaders. Thanks to all who are applying their skills and talents to these critical activities.

- Rob



SAVE THE DATE:

UUCM ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MAY 31, 1 P.M. AT UUCM

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2014 - JUNE 2015

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

Members at Large:

Dawn Bateman, Bonnie Bennett,
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.
Congregants are welcome to observe with prior notice.*

Search Committee Updates

Dear UUCM,

Your Board of Trustees is excited to announce the next step in the selection of our Ministerial Search Committee. Here is important information about the Search Committee selection process and about how you can participate.

To recap what has transpired so far, your Board of Trustees, with assistance from other leaders, completed a phone survey of all members to solicit names of possible candidates for the Search Committee. Board members then contacted those who were mentioned most frequently to determine if they were able to serve and willing to have their names placed on the ballot.

We are now ready to move to the next phase of the selection process by conducting a vote so members can express their preference. We are delighted to report that we will have a ballot with ten nominees who have generously committed to serve in this important role if called. The nominees are:
(Drum roll please...)

Bob Bateman
Taylor Carey
Lindsay Duncel
George Dunstan
Janet Dunstan
Beth Freedman
Kern Hildebrand
Keith Johnson
Bev Lyon
Corrie Silva

Voting will be conducted between services and after the second service on Sunday April 26th and Sunday May 3rd. For those who cannot attend on those Sundays, you can vote at the church on Tuesday, May 5th, from 5:00 - 6:00 PM.

You can vote for up to seven nominees. The four nominees who receive the most votes will automatically be seated on the committee. The Board of Trustees will seat three additional people from the list of nominees in order to insure the appropriate diversity on the committee. Board members who are nominees or partners of nominees will not participate in the Board decision regarding these three selections. When the committee is presented to the congregation in May, it will not be disclosed whether a person was seated on the committee by election or selection.

To ensure the integrity of the voting process, each completed ballot must be submitted in person by the voter in an envelope that will be provided. The envelope should be sealed and

your name written on the front so membership can be verified and each person checked off as having voted. To insure confidentiality, ballots will be separated from the envelopes before ballots are unfolded for counting. The results will be tallied by three members of the Board of Trustees. When partners are on the ballot as is the case here, both partners cannot serve on the committee. If both partners are among the four nominees with the most votes, it will be left to them to determine which will serve. If one or none of the partners are among the four nominees with the most votes, the Board of Trustees will make the final three selections such that both partners are not on the committee.

The nominees have provided short bios which you'll find attached. Since you will likely know some of the nominees better than others, we encourage you to read the bios before voting. Feel free to print this e-mail message and mark your preferences on it as a sample ballot, then bring it with you for reference when you vote.

This is an exciting time, and we have a strong slate of nominees. I hope you'll take the opportunity to participate in this selection process!

*– Rob Ferroggiaro
for the Board of Trustees*



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING JUNE 24-28, 2015 IN PORTLAND, OR

The annual General Assembly of the national Unitarian Universalist Association will be held in Portland, Oregon, June 24 – 28.

These meetings are truly stimulating, with some superb speakers (Cornel West is a major presenter this year, a very timely choice given the unhappy but also historic events around racism of the past year), great workshops, first class worship and lots of opportunity to meet with enthusiastic UUs from around the country and beyond.

There is already a sizable UUCM contingent planning to go, and you could be part of it. See UU World for details about registration and program, or visit: <http://www.uua.org/ga>.

Search Committee Biographies

BOB BATEMAN

I have been a member of UUCM since 2002. I found UUCM after my wife Dawn and I moved to Walsh Street. As an adult, I have found an open-minded and welcoming community of friends at UUCM who I'm ready to support as we tackle our next big endeavor.

I am currently working as a Database Systems Administrator for Sierra College in Rocklin. I am a generalist, analytical and methodical.

I appreciate the history and wisdom that has gone into creating the UUA's search process guidelines, and will support their use.

In the past I have served on the UUCM Board of Trustees including two terms as President 2006-2008. During this period UUCM conducted the search process which produced our first settled minister Rev. Meghan Cefalu. I have heard a lot of positive feedback from the members of that search committee, so I'm looking forward to this opportunity to serve.

TAYLOR CAREY

I became a Unitarian Universalist in 1995, when I joined UUSS in Sacramento. The fact that I did so with no change of heart or philosophy suggests that I'd been one for many years. We joined UUCM in 2012 after moving to Nevada City.

My wife, Kathryn and I raised five children in the UU faith. All college graduates, they are thoughtful, progressive-minded human beings, and our greatest source of pride.

I practiced law for over thirty years, most recently with the Department of Justice, as a Special Assistant to Attorney General Bill Lockyer, then as a Deputy Attorney General in the Opinion Unit, retiring in 2013.

I am presently the treasurer of the Nevada-Sierra Regional In-Home Supportive Services board of directors, and Chair of the Northern Sierra Chapter of the ACLU. I have been a musician for over 50 years, currently performing with the Banner Mountain Boys bluegrass band.

LINDSAY DUNCKEL

Lindsay Dunkel, a lifetime UU, has been a member of UUCM for twelve years, along with her husband, Randy McKean. Their two children, Sophia (19) and Callum (17) were active participants in the religious education program throughout their childhoods and adolescence. In the past, Lindsay has served on the Religious Education Committee, serving as chair

for many years, the Committee on Ministry, and the Board of Trustees. She currently serves on the Transition Team and is the chair of the Worship Committee, of which she has been a member since 2008.

In her weekday life, Lindsay serves as Executive Director of First 5 Nevada County. She also serves on multiple boards, advisory boards, and steering committees, including the Center for Non Profit Leadership board; she has vast experience working as a member of a group, engaging in collaborative decision-making, and loves group process. She is humbled by the nomination to run for UUCM's ministerial search committee and would prioritize her involvement in that important process.

GEORGE DUNSTAN

My wife, Janet, and I joined UUCM in 2011. We have one daughter, Maya, who lives in Seattle. I currently serve on the Committee on Ministry / Transition Team, the Endowment and Building and Grounds committees and have served on the Finance committee. I am active in the Wednesday morning men's group, the humanism discussion group, and the Thursday book discussion group.

Being a part of this community inspires me as we work together and reach out to Hospitality House, Interfaith Food Ministry and the other local groups helping those in need in our community. I expect that the challenges of the extended time commitment for the search committee would be difficult but manageable. If chosen for the committee I would limit my activities in other groups I am active in as necessary and forgo any extended travels until the committee work is completed.

JANET DUNSTAN

As a member of UUCM since 2011, I have served on the Board of Trustees as a Trustee-at-Large, Secretary, President and currently as Treasurer. My previous experience includes being on a Board and ministerial search committee for a Christian church.

With steady growth in membership and changes in ministers, the challenges handled by the UUCM Board have been significant in the last few years. It has been my pleasure to work side by side with some very dedicated people; I have learned a great deal from them.

I would like to serve on the Search Committee to have the opportunity to move from an administrative focus and to delve deeper into the soul of my Community. Finding a minister who shares our values will allow us to move forward with new vitality and a loving spirit to make a difference in the wider community.

Search Committee Biographies, Continued...

BETH FREEDMAN

I became a UU 19 years ago and have been attending UUCM for nine years. I am a devoted mother of two teen boys and have a career in Corporate Finance. I have 20+ years financial management experience including hands on hiring and recruiting of personnel. I have a passion for helping organizations communicate more effectively and solving problems.

I have served as Treasurer, Board Member, Chair of Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, RE Teacher and RE Committee Member at UUCM. I am prepared to give up volunteering in other areas of the church. People who know me well include Kia Hatch, Keith Johnson, Marilyn Winters, Beth Karow, Dawn Bateman and Shannon Dooley Miller.

The minister's role as spiritual and administrative leader is key to the well-being of our beloved congregation. I am very motivated to find the right balance of skills to serve our creative, talented and diverse spiritual community.

KERN HILDEBRAND

I have been a member of UUCM for over seven years during which time I've served for three years as a member of the Worship Committee, helped out on Building and Grounds workdays, hosted and attended Circle Suppers, joined Covenant Groups, and attended church and Men's Group meetings regularly whenever I'm in town. I love being among people who inspire and challenge me, who make me laugh and think. I try to take a "big picture" view of most issues and ideas. Reality is rarely up or down, right or wrong, good or bad. I would bring this approach/view to the Ministerial Search Committee. I grew up in California as a professor's kid, worked in city government, have traveled to every continent, and have a wonderful extended family. UUCM has been an important and valued positive influence in my life. I would like to play that forward.

KEITH JOHNSON

I have been a member here at UUCM since 1997. Previously I was a member of the Sierra Foothills Unitarian church in Auburn. I was a member of the UUCM Board of Trustees from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2013. While on the Board I served two years as a Trustee at large, two years as Vice-President, and two years as Board President. Since leaving the Board I have performed the duties of Adult RE Coordinator, and I have been a member of the Stewardship, Social Justice, and Religious Education Committees, as well as the Transition Team.

I have prior experience with the ministerial search process.

I was a member of the Ministerial Search Committee that selected Reverend Meghan Cefalu, and I also was on the Interim Minister Hiring Team which selected Reverend Denis Paul and Reverend David Usher. I believe my experience at UUCM and my knowledge of the search process will help make me a useful member of the Ministerial Search Committee. If selected I will be honored to serve.

BEV LYON

Bev Lyon has been a member of UUCM for six years. She and her wife Lynn Whitson were married in the sanctuary by Rev. Meghan in 2008.

Bev has served as secretary of the Board of Trustees and she served on the committee to establish the Endowment Fund.

Serving as a Worship Associate for the past three years has been transformative. It is nothing new for Bev to work thoughtfully with others toward a balanced result, but challenging her own beliefs, and embracing new insights and spiritual paths has been life changing. Nothing gives her more joy than helping put together a worship service that provides food for thought and sustenance of the soul for everyone who attends here.

It would be an honor to help select a new minister who can best celebrate the broad diversity, backgrounds and spiritual journeys of the members of our beloved community.

CORRIE SILVA

A native San Franciscan, I moved to Grass Valley eight years ago, anxious to find a community of socially conscious, open minded people.

Three months later I joined UUCM. It became more than a religious community for me. Being a part of this congregation has expanded my consciousness and helped me grow spiritually and cognitively. I have been involved in many facets of the community, including serving as chair of the membership committee for four years and as a member of the caring committee for four years.

This is a community that has helped me find the strength and courage to face some difficult life challenges. Now I am in a position to give back. It would be an honor to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee and help to facilitate one of the most important decisions UUCM can make, that of calling a settled minister.

Stewardship Committee

**UUCM Spring Auction –
Saturday, May 2nd, 5:30 p.m.
Catered Dinner at 6:00 p.m.**

By Bob Miller

Bob@sierramiller.com, (530) 205-5047

60 of us have tickets for the Spring Action. You now need to study the on-line catalog at www.togethераuction.com/uucm and plan your bidding strategy. There are over 90 items. Click on the large rectangle on the left to browse the items. There is both a "Catalog Grid" view and a "Catalog List" view.

If you cannot be there, contact Carol Holliman (530-878-1427 or carolholliman@gmail.com), our absentee bidder. She will bid on your behalf.

On the evening of the auction some items will be offered in the silent auction using paper bidding forms. Others will be offered in a live auction by our crack team of auctioneers.

Ticket sales are now closed and we have advised the caterers of our head count. However, if you really want one then call or e-mail me as shown above to see if there is an available cancellation.

See you there for a fun evening.



Online Giving

Electronic Giving Program Now Available at UUCM!

The Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making your regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account, or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Collection basket offering can fluctuate significantly from week to week due to travel, illness and other circumstances, but when contributions are automated, the church receives funds on a steady, uninterrupted basis – and you don't have to worry about forgetting or getting behind on your pledge.

To set up your online donations at UUCM's website home page:

1. Go to www.uugrassvalley.org
2. Click the "Online Giving" button
3. Click the "Create Profile" button
4. Follow the on screen instructions to create your online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Thank you!

Pledge Report

By Rev. David Usher, UUCM Interim Minister



All the early indications are that this will be the most successful Pledge Campaign in UUCM's history, with the pledges already received showing an average increase of 40%! If the pledges still outstanding match that remarkable result, UUCM will be in a very strong financial position to realize all the goals, dreams and ambitions which have been articulated.

A thousand thanks to Beryl Beckwith for her tireless leadership of the Generosity Team which has worked so diligently and so well together. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please do so no later than April 30 to allow the Finance Committee and Board to put together a realistic budget for the Annual Meeting on May 31.

Membership and Hospitality

Are you Considering Becoming a Member of UUCM?

*OUR NEXT "INTRO TO UUCM" CLASS IS SATURDAY,
MAY 9 AND NEW MEMBER SUNDAY IS MAY 31*

The next class for those considering becoming a member at UUCM will be held on Saturday, May 9th. The class runs from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., and includes a delicious lunch. It is an opportunity to share your personal spiritual journey with others, and to learn something about Unitarian Universalist theology, history and governance, as well as what are the privileges and expectations of membership. There is no pressure to become a member after taking the class, and it is open to newcomers as well as to people who have been around a while but would like a refresher. The next New Member Welcome Service will be May 31.

If you would like to take the class or participate in the service, please let one of the greeters know next time you are at UUCM.

The Hospitality Crew Appreciates Your Help!

For several years, the same small group of people have been taking turns making coffee, setting the tables, and cleaning up each Sunday. Since we went to two services, they often end up missing the service, because each one does it all on his or her week. Recently we've had a few new volunteers helping out, and we really appreciate it! Many hands make light work!

There is enough work for two people to set up during the first service, and another two people to clean up during the second service. So, we could use 16 people to cover a month of Sundays.

Want to see someone smile? Volunteer! Please contact Donna Foddrell, David Ferrier, or Carol Kuczora. They can usually be found in the kitchen on Sunday mornings.

And, if you would like to bring snacks such as fruits, veggies, cookies, nut breads, cakes, cheese and crackers, please sign up for a turn on the bulletin board just outside the kitchen. *Thank you.*

Become a New Member Mentor!

By Kathryn Young, UUCM Membership Chair

Help the Membership Committee make UUCM a truly welcoming Congregation!

We'd like to start a mentor program, and have each new member get paired with a mentor from our congregation. Mentors would help new members get connected, find activities they enjoy, and feel welcome.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DOES A "MENTOR" NEED?

Mostly a friendly personality and willingness to make a connection with another person. If you are interested in helping the Membership/ Welcoming committee by becoming a mentor, please talk to Claire Miller or Kathryn Young at the welcome table in the foyer any Sunday, or send an e-mail to truckeeclaire@yahoo.com or kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathryn Young, *chair*
Theresa Houtman, Kathy MacLeod,
Claire Miller, Pat Paddock, Sarah Scott

Committee meetings are from 4-5:30 p.m.
on the third Monday of each month
in the Anthony Room

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

Save the Date! End of the Year Picnic-in-the-Park Service is Sunday, June 21st

One of our favorite services each year is our outdoor service at Condon Park, followed by a barbecue and picnic lunch, with live music provided by "The Banner Mountain Boys." The membership committee is responsible for organizing the barbecue. We'll be providing hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers, and beverages. The side dishes are potluck - everyone brings their favorite salads, desserts, chips and more to accompany the barbecue menu. It's a great way to kick off the summer!



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We will need help setting up, cleaning up, and cooking. If you'd be willing to take a shift at the barbecue, set out food and/or tidy up the park afterward, please volunteer. Please send an e-mail to kathryneyounguu@gmail.com or call 478-1329.

Committee Updates

Building & Grounds: Next Work Day Scheduled for SATURDAY, MAY 16TH AT 9:00 AM

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

I would like to thank all the people in our community that help keep our building and grounds looking great. This month we had Joel and Theresa Houtman, Janet Bullock, Gwen Eymann, Mary Grebenkemper, David Ferrier, Yvonne Mills, Beth Freedman, David Usher, David Edwards and me. It is amazing what can be accomplished with a group of dedicated individuals.

We are looking at some great things happening. We continued our goal of water conversation by barking our grassy areas on Walsh Street and placing drip watering for our plants. The fans are working again and the front railing is now stable. The kitchen was cleaned and organized. It was a great work day and we had fun, good conversation and a delicious lunch afterward.

Remember if you want to participate in keeping our building and grounds in good condition we can use your help. We are always looking for volunteers on work party days. The next scheduled work day is May 16, 2015. I hope to see you there.

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:

- Sunny Holmes suffered a recent spinal compression fracture
- Sharon Moore is now in hospice care, and loves receiving cards with your thoughts
- May Lawrence is back home again after her surgery
- Alan Johnston will be at Wolf Creek Care Center getting rehab for six weeks after surgery on his broken femur
- Anne Lyon recovering from a broken ankle; she is still unable to walk or drive
- Jim Lowe recovering from lung cancer surgery – he is expected to return to rehearse with the choir in May!

The UUCM Caring Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. We may be contacted via e-mail at caringcommittee@uugrassvalley.org or by calling Gwen Eymann at 530.274.7965 for more information.

All-Congregation Social Justice Workshop

SUNDAY, MAY 3RD, 12:30 P.M. AT UUCM

*By Bonnie Bennett Co-Chair
Social Justice Coordinating Council*

By the time you read your May Mountain Chalice, the May 3rd All Congregational Social Justice Workshop will be upon us.

UUCM's Social Justice Committee has been working on a new focus which includes involving the whole congregation in selecting one or two important issues.

The May 3rd workshop is the first of three. At this workshop, the UU Justice Ministry will help us to assess our current program and develop a vision and plan for the future. Work will be done mostly in small groups with the help from our Minister, Board, and Social Justice Leaders.

UUCM has taken up LGBT rights, created a Green Sanctuary, supported the Animal Ministry, helped found Hospitality House, worked alongside other local faith communities to feed the hungry, visited immigrants in detention, invested our money in "micro-loans" through KIVA, fed Habitat for Humanity workers, and passed the plate on Sunday for mostly local non-profits. And, of course, we're still involved in all of those projects. Recently, David Usher has helped us to come to terms with the issues surrounding racism by conducting forums on Black Lives Matter. And we're working with local groups to create awareness about Climate Change. Did I leave anything out? We are indeed a faith community of action!

If you are a social justice advocate and are interested in strengthening our program for the years ahead, please join us on May 3rd!



Social Justice Activities

Pass the Plate for UUSC

By Rev. David Usher



Our Pass the Plate offering for the UU Service Committee in March raised \$551.32! Thank you all for your generous support of the vital work of this committee. Find out more about their mission at www.uusc.org/.

Orientation to General Assembly WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 7:00-8:30 P.M. AT UUCM

There is a good-size contingent of folk from UUCM planning to go to the General Assembly meetings being held in Portland, Oregon, June 24 – 28. Several thousand UUs from throughout North America, with others from around the world, will be together for five days of stimulating lectures, workshops, music, business, worship and fun. They are great occasions.

David Usher will host an Orientation Evening about General Assembly on Wednesday 27th May, 7.00 – 8.30. If you are planning to go to Portland, or even if you aren't but would like to know what the fuss is about, come along.

Hospitality House Dinner Crew Serving TWO Dinners this Month

By Leal Portis

UUCM's dinner crew will be providing dinner for residents of the Hospitality House on two nights this month: Friday, May 15th and Friday, May 29th.

We are 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 265-3887 or portis.leal@gmail.com.

GREEN Power Points

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

THE SMALL PICTURE

If you're considering moving or buying a new home this year, think green in a big way by downsizing your dwelling, or at least passing on the McMansion. Smaller homes use fewer resources all around: to heat them, cool them, fill them with light and furniture, and keep them painted, polished, and clean. Plus, you'll spend less time on upkeep, and more time with your loved ones, bonding more because you're sharing less space.

Following this advice I've moved, and my new address is: 6 Rockwood Drive (above Sierra Cinemas off Hughes Road). Call before dropping by – I may be out protesting something or other! (Tip from my 2009 Page-A-Day Calendar)



Fourth Friday Film Series PRESENTS "Koch Brothers Exposed" FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M. AT UUCM

Koch Brothers Exposed will be shown on May 22, at 7:00, in the sanctuary of UUCM. This documentary film is part of the Fourth Friday Film Forum cosponsored by the church's Social Justice Coordinating Committee and the Center for Peace and Justice of Nevada County.

The film is a hard-hitting investigation of the 1% at its very worst. This full-length documentary film on Charles and David Koch -- two of the world's richest and most powerful men -- is from acclaimed director Robert Greenwald. The billionaire brothers bankroll a vast network of organizations that work to undermine the interests of the 99% on issues ranging from Social Security to the environment to civil rights. This film uncovers the Koch's corruption -- and points the way to how Americans can reclaim their democracy.

Discussion to follow film. Refreshments will be available. \$5 - \$10 donation requested; no one turned away for lack of funds.

For more information, call (530) 615-7859, visit www.ncpeace.org, or e-mail the Nevada County Peace Center at ncpeace@sbcglobal.net.



Annie Haymaker
Director of Music Ministry



Musical Notes

Music Survey Results

"Music is a must - all kinds, any kind. It's people glue - helps bind us to each other, nature and the universe." This was one of the comments made on the congregational music survey created by Rev. Usher last month, and I couldn't agree more. In fact, the main reason I volunteer as UUCM's music director is that the music here is so central to worship, just as music is the most important part of my own spiritual practice. And since 75 people, about 60% of our membership, responded to the survey, it appears that music is a key element for them as well.

The survey asked about preferences in hymns, music genres, instruments, performers, and listening vs. participation. People enjoyed singing both contemporary and traditional hymns as well as new hymns, liking known hymns a little better. Folk, international/world, and classical genres were favored over jazz and show tunes, and six people commented that contemporary music was another favorite genre. The piano was the almost unanimous favorite, with other instruments close behind. Our own musicians, guest musicians, and the choir were all liked, and only one person indicated a preference for "no music at all." Group singing, performance, and performer-led singing were about equally preferred.

Many people made cogent comments and suggestions. One thread common to all categories was the desire for "a rich and robust diversity of music" of good quality, at a suitable volume, and relevant to the mood and intent of the service. There were many suggestions for ways to develop congregational singing, especially of new hymns. The choir's efforts were applauded, with wishes to increase its size and variety of offerings. These comments will provide material for future discussion by the Worship Committee, and the care and thought that went into everyone's feedback is much appreciated. If you'd like to see all the numbers and individual comments, the results are online at <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/results/>.

Apropos of the music survey, several people have asked me about the music director's role. In 2008 the Music Committee was formed to promote the music program's diversity, abundance, and quality. In 2009 the committee proposed the creation of a Music Director position, which I volunteered to fill, and in 2010 it merged with the Worship Committee.

I completed the UUA's training program for music directors in 2011. My current duties are mostly administrative: maintaining the music library and instruments, budget tracking and planning, keeping records of weekly service music, advising the Worship Committee, and participating in long-range planning; I've also alternated leading the choir with Janet Bullock since 2011. As UUCM continues to grow, it is hoped that funding will become available for a part-time position.

Evening Choir

Evening Choir is settling in under Janet Bullock's direction, after gaining new members from our enthusiastic Holiday Choir. It rehearses on the first three Monday evenings of the month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., and plans to sing once a month, usually on the third Sunday of the month.

Newcomers are welcome - please call Janet at 477-8760 for more information.

Morning Choir

Morning Choir, led by Annie Haymaker once a month, has sung every month for services since January. This drop-in group practices the hymns of the day for half an hour before the second service, then adds a little pizzazz to the congregational singing during the second service. All are welcome. The next morning choir will practice at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 24th.

Drumming Circle

On the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month, David Ferrier leads a Drumming Circle in the Sanctuary. You are welcome to come to this fun activity. No previous experience necessary. Call David F. at 530.559.5902 for info.



We were fortunate to have the multi-talented Toon Vandevorst as our guest pianist during Jim Lowe's convalescence last month.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

New Drop-in Support Circle at UUCM

SUNDAYS IN MAY, 10:45 A.M.

By Janet Bullock, Chair

Support Groups Working Group

As many of you know there has been a working group looking into the possibilities of creating a regular support group at UUCM to meet the needs of people in the congregation who may be facing emotional challenges. Many of you filled out a survey to help us with our assessment.

HERE IS WHAT WE HAVE DETERMINED:

UUCM does not currently have the resources to meet all of our wishes and needs. And we are not equipped at this time to offer a therapy/support group. However, there is sufficient interest in, and possibly enough facilitators for a regular, drop-in, friendly support circle on Sundays, during the refreshments hour between services.

The vision is to have a regular place and time where UUCM folks can gather, on a drop-in basis, to get a little extra support. For example: if you're feeling a little blue, or a little lonely or if you're new to UUCM and are having trouble getting acquainted and connected; this would be a place to go.

It would not be therapy. It would not be a place to try to work out one's problems. It would be a place where you would be welcomed and, hopefully, comforted. It would be kind of a "joys and concerns" group.

We also envision folks attending who feel particularly overflowing with open hearts that day, and want to share their hearts with others.

Facilitators will be volunteers.

MONTH OF MAY EXPERIMENT

In May we will experiment with the "Drop-in Support Circle".

The plan:

- We'll meet in the Library each Sunday at 10:45, (allow 10 minutes to get refreshments); then close the doors between 10:55 - 11:25 (30 minutes).
- Volunteer facilitators (sign up with Janet Bullock, for now)
- Evaluation: on the fifth Sunday of May, participants will evaluate how the experiment went.



Drop-in Support Circle Volunteer Facilitators Needed

*By Janet Bullock, Chairperson
Support Groups Working Group*

Please e-mail me (janetbullock41@gmail.com) if you are interested in facilitating or co-facilitating one or more Sundays during May (I plan to be present as a co-facilitator during all the circles in May – but beyond that, only part-time). I will provide a few

simple guidelines for facilitators.

Women's Circle – Annual Clothing & Accessories Swap

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

FINGER FOOD POTLUCK AT 6:00 PM

SWAP AT 7:00 P.M

Get ready for the annual Clothing and Accessories Swap this month! Start gathering clothing, accessories (including scarves, hats, shoes, purses, jewelry and belts), and like-new linens and/or kitchen towels that you are ready to pass on to a good home.

Bring donations to UUCM on Sunday, May 10th or Monday, May 11, or make arrangements with Donna Foddrell by calling 274-2309. Items remaining after the swap will be donated to our UUCM Yard Sale or a local charity, as deemed appropriate.

Donna will need lots of help sorting, setting up tables with merchandise, hanging clothing. She will be at UUCM from 2-5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11. Please stop in and drop off your items, and stay to help organize. If you have a portable clothing rack you can spare for a few days, please call Donna and let her know.

Tuesday's meeting will start with a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. To keep clean up at a minimum, (more time to SWAP!) we are suggesting light finger foods. Sandwiches, fruit, crudite and dips, etc. We'll nibble, clean up, and then... SHOP and SWAP! Bring bags to carry your loot home. For fun, let's partner up and create outfits for each other... Then model them at the end. Crazy, practical, glamorous, sophisticated, sporty – discover the "new you!"

This is one of our most popular meetings each year!

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Annual UUCM Yard Sale

Saturday, May 30th

522 SACRAMENTO STREET, NEVADA CITY

The annual UUCM Yard Sale will be held Saturday, May 30 at the home of Keith and Alice Johnson, 522 Sacramento Street, Nevada City. Items may be dropped off on May 28 or 29, or by special arrangement. The biggest sellers are furniture, tools, and jewelry. All articles are accepted, but please do not bring items of very little value such as old coffee mugs, well-used pots and pans, soiled clothes, etc. Electronics are also discouraged as they usually do not sell.

If you would like to help set up for the sale, you can arrive at the house at 5 p.m. on Friday. Liquid refreshments will be served. We also need volunteers to work the sale.

Thank you all and we will see you at the Yard Sale!

P.S.: Please check the UUCM Lost & Found (under the main table in the foyer of the sanctuary) before May 28th, when Lost & Found items will be placed in the Annual UUCM Yard Sale.



Let's Grow the Garden Team!

By Michael Bankston

Contact: 530-274-2760 or mvbankston@att.net

The garden team is responsible for planting and maintaining the vegetable garden behind the church. If you would like to participate please let me know and I will add your name to the garden team e-mail list so I can let you know when we have work parties.

UUCM Humanism Discussion Group

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015 AT 10:30 AM

By George Dunstan

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 6th from 10:30 until noon at UUCM in the Channing room.

For further information, please contact George Dunstan (477-7635 or gygeode@gmail.com) or David Briggs (274-9236 or davidbriggs100@yahoo.com)

Men's Groups

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

Meditation

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00, a self-directed group of congregants meet for an hour of meditation in the Sanctuary. Enjoy a time of inner peace and reflection with others. For more information, call Scottie on 530.272.5022 or scottiehart47@gmail.com.

UU Women are Walking!

EVERY OTHER MONDAY, MAY 11 AND MAY 25

Join in! A delightful group of UU women are walking for a couple hours twice a month, getting both exercise and companionship. For information about times, carpools, and locations, please contact Kathryn Young (kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.)



A recent hike to Spenceville Falls
with Dawn, Doe, Theresa, Kathryn and Kia

Religious Education Updates

Children and Youth RE Program

By Claire Miller,

Coordinator of RE Programs for Children and Youth

After several "Brainstorming" sessions, a lot of conversations, and input from parents, families, teenagers and others, we are now in the process of developing a calendar of programs for children, youth, and families at UUCM.

Sunday, April 19, Paul Elias led an Earth day discussion with a lively band of youngsters. The next two Sundays we will be planning and preparing the children for their participation in the following:

- May 31st Multi-generational service, with art, stories and music.
- June 21st, The UUCM annual Service and Picnic in the Park will take place in Condon Park, starting at 11 a.m. Following the open air service there will be a BBQ lunch with lots of great food, followed by games.
- And Save the Date - August 21 to 23 for the Annual Camping Adventure Weekend at Scott's Flat. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, and welcome new families into our church community. Beth Freedman is coordinating this event, and will be sending out details and instructions for signing up, a little closer to the time.

Regular Sunday morning programs for children will continue, with a variety of topics. There will also be midweek family events happening regularly throughout the rest of this spring & summer. Watch for notices as plans evolve.

Children and Youth Service

SUNDAY, MAY 31ST AT UUCM

To all UUCM children, youth and teens:

On Sunday, May 31st, the children will be doing a part of the service. Any child or teenager is welcome to be a part of this. There is a place for all sorts of talents – artists, speakers, singers, musicians, as well as simply smiling young faces, who just want to join in with the others.

Please come to UUCM Sunday, May 3. Join your parents for the first few minutes of the regular 11:30 service. Then after the Story for All Ages, we will adjourn to the classrooms upstairs, where we will be working on our plan and practicing what we are going to do.

If any child wants to participate on May 31st, but can't be there on Sunday, please contact Claire Miller at truckeeclaire@yahoo.com or (530) 205-5324. See you on Sunday!

UU History Course

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00 P.M. AT UUCM

Facilitated by Keith Johnson

(kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com, 265-0277)

The remaining topics for this course include:

April 29: Nineteenth Century Idealism – Emerson and Parker

May 6: Universalism in America

NOTE: We will not be meeting on Wednesday, May 13th!

May 20: The Development of Humanism in the 20th Century

May 27: Where Do We Go From Here?

Participants will be provided handouts for the following week's class. The handouts will mainly be primary sources of about 10 pages that we will discuss at length in class. There will be no other assigned readings. No prior knowledge of UU history is required – let's have some fun and learn about our denominational ancestors at the same time!

UU-ism Around The World

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 AT UUCM

6:00 P.M. POTLUCK SUPPER, 7:00 P.M. PROGRAM

By Rev. David Usher

Do you think Unitarian Universalism is unique to the United States? Far from it. Twenty years ago, The International Council of Unitarians & Universalists was founded to bring together Unitarians from around the world. Rev. David Usher was its first President, having campaigned for eight years previously for such an organization to be established. Today, there are Unitarians (or Unitarian Universalists) in organized congregations on every continent – in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Congo, Czech Republic, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom and United States. In each of those countries, the history, the theology, the governance and the practices are unique.

The monthly Wednesday evening program on Wednesday 13th will feature David Usher telling the story of how Unitarian Universalism was established and is practised in some of these countries.

Potluck starts at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share – a meat, casserole, salad, vegetable, dessert. The program will start about 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to come for either or both.

May Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
APRIL			
29	Wednesday	8.30 6.00	Men's Group UU History, 19th Century
30	Thursday	8.30 10.00	Men's Coffee Group Transition Team/Ctte on Ministry
MAY			
2	Saturday	5.30	Live Auction & Catered Dinner
3	Sunday	9.45 10.45 11.30 12.45	Sunday Service and Search Committee Voting Drop In Support Circle Sunday Service/Search Ctte Vote Social Justice Workshop
4	Monday	5.30	Choir Practice
5	Tuesday	9.00 12.30 5.00	Meditation Stewardship Committee Search Committee Voting
6	Wednesday	8.30 10.30 6.00 7.00	Men's Group Humanist Group UU History, Universalism in America Drumming Circle
7	Thursday	8.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site)
9	Saturday	9.00	New Member Intro Class
10	Sunday	9.45 10.45 11.30	Sunday Service Drop In Support Circle Sunday Service
11	Monday	9.00 5.30	2nd Monday Covenant Group Choir Practice
12	Tuesday	9.00 4.00 6.00	Meditation Caring Committee Women's Group
13	Wednesday	8.30 11.00 6.00	Men's Group Habitat Humanity Lunch Prep Potluck and Program
14	Thursday	8.30 10.30 6.00	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Writers' Group Board of Trustees Meeting
15	Friday	4.00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
16	Saturday	9.00 12.30	Building & Grounds Work Party Building & Grounds Meeting
17	Sunday	9.45 10.45 11.30	Sunday Service Drop In Support Circle Sunday Service
18	Monday	4.00 5.30	Membership Committee Choir Practice
19	Tuesday	9.00 1.00 7.00	Morning Meditation Grandmothers for Peace Climate Change Coalition
20	Wednesday	8.30 6.00 6.30 7.00	Men's Group UU History: Humanism Bonnie B Chalice Group Drumming Circle
21	Thursday	8.30 2.00 7.00	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Barbara Covenant Group Twelve Steps Study Group
22	Friday	12.00 7.00	Deadline for June Mt. Chalice Fourth Friday Film
23	Saturday	9.00	Worship Workshop
24	Sunday	9.45 10.45 11.30	Sunday Service Drop In Support Circle Sunday Service
26	Tuesday	9.00 6.30	Morning Meditation Worship Committee Meeting
27	Wednesday	8.30 4.30 6.00 7.00	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting UU History, Where do we go? General Assembly Orientation
28	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Writers Group
29	Friday	4.00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
30	Saturday	8.00 a	Yard Sale Fundraiser (off site)
31	Sunday	9.45 10.45 11.30 1.00	Sunday Service Drop In Support Circle Sunday Service Annual Congregational Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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

Telephone: 530.274.1675

Website: www.uugrassvalley.org

Sunday Services at 9:45 AM and 11:30 AM

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Friday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

UUCM STAFF MEMBER

Reverend David Usher, Interim Minister
Conrad Sisk, Office Administrator

E-MAIL ADDRESS

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