

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

June 2015

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

June 7 **Rev. Meghan Conrad Cefalu**
"Life Before Death"
 Worship Associate: Bev Lyon
 Music: Will Tuttle

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?

June 14 **Rev. Abbey Tennis**
"Let the Beauty We Love Be What We Do"
 Worship Associate: Jerry Jacoby

What if living an ethical life was not about closely following a list of "thou shalts" and "thou shalt nots," but was instead about coming to know true beauty and dedicating our lives to protecting and nourishing what is beautiful? Join us as we connect to the age-old human challenge to live a nourishing and principled life.

PLEASE NOTE: Summer Service Schedule Begins!
One Service at 11:00 a.m.
from June 21 until September 6

June 21 **Rev. David Usher**
 Music: *The Banner Mountain Boys*

Annual Picnic Service in Condon Park
 Come enjoy our outdoor service beginning at 11:00 in the covered picnic area at Condon Park in Grass Valley, followed by a potluck picnic/barbecue and live bluegrass music.

June 28 **Service Leader: Gail Johnson Vaughan**
Spiritual Café

A chance to converse with fellow travelers about life's big questions.

July 5 **Service Leader: Bev Lyon**
with contributions from others who attended GA

Come hear the highlights of the General Assembly meetings in Portland, Oregon.

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(Note: NEW SUMMER OFFICE HOURS)



*Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister*

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

We are coming up to the end of our first of two years together. The Annual Meeting at the end of May will be a time for a more formal review of the year in addition to looking forward, but I want to take this opportunity for a few personal reflections of my own.

There have certainly been some significant developments during the year. In January we made the long discussed switch to two-services, made necessary by the increase in attendance. Not everyone was happy, but the switch was made with surprising ease and we quickly settled into the new rhythm. Attendance at each service has been roughly equal since, with some people being regulars at one service while others come to whichever better suits their plans for that day. The social hour in between has gone well.

I have made some changes to the usual flow and style of the services, partly to reflect my own preferences and partly so the congregation is exposed to different ways of worship in anticipation of your next settled minister. Again, not everyone has been happy with all of the changes, and some still hanker for elements which are suitable for a small congregation but become less so as a congregation grows, but the continuing strong attendance suggests that UUCM is a vibrant community with worship at its centre.

I became concerned about the state of the program for young people and took some decisive action to address the situation. I did what I believed had to be done and according to correct process, but not everyone was happy.

Membership has grown significantly during the year, with more people being welcomed as new members than in any previous year in UUCM's history. This, of course, is exciting and gratifying, but again not everyone is happy about it. Some would prefer UUCM to remain small so that their place within it would remain unchanged and unchallenged.

The recent Generosity Campaign has been the most successful in UUCM's history, not only raising more money than ever before but, equally significant, raising awareness of the importance of a correct attitude towards money for our personal spiritual health. Again, not everyone has been happy about this.

All of which is to say, that in a time of transition such as UUCM is experiencing at the moment, no matter how well things are going according to objective measures, not everyone will be happy. And that is okay, even if sometimes uncomfortable. The purpose of a church is not to make people unhappy, but neither is it only to make them happy if happiness is understood as not being disturbed. The purpose of a church is two-fold — to help people grow their souls and to be an agency for good in the world. Both of those purposes require effort. We will better serve those twin purposes as we continue to open ourselves to the challenges of radically inclusive welcome, meaningful worship and active service to the world.

I thank you for all you have done this past year, and look forward to the coming year with you.

See you in church!

David

Minister Absent

Rev. David Usher will be flying to Australia on May 31 to visit his daughter, returning to the US on June 16. He will then be attending the General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, June 21 – 28. For much of July he will be on vacation, and on study leave in August. During his absence he may be reached primarily by e-mail.

Rev. Meghan Cefalu Here June 7 *CELEBRATE AFTERWARD AT CHRISTY BARDEN'S*

We originally thought we'd have a potluck lunch after the second service to honor Meghan, but since Christy Barden is having his annual Barn Party after church at the same time, and since everyone is invited, please bring your dish to Christy's and we'll visit with Meghan there!

If you can't make it to the Barn Party, you will have a chance to catch up with her at the coffee hour between services. If you'd like to contribute finger foods, please sign up on the clipboard outside the kitchen door in the Alcott Room.

Second Social Justice Workshop

The first Social Justice Workshop on May 3 was an exciting introduction to what is possible for our future work together. Be sure to come to the second workshop on June 14. Be part of our new vision for social justice.



Rob Ferroggiaro
UUCM President

President's Perspective

Hello, UUCM!

An important milestone was reached recently with the announcement of the members of the Ministerial Search Committee...and a talented and experienced committee it is! As search-related plans take shape this summer, we'll all hear more about specific activities and timetables. In the meantime, I want to remind everyone of one very significant and exciting part of the process in which we'll engage, most likely during late summer and early fall.

In order for this search to have the best chance of success, the Search Committee will lead a process to develop answers to several critical questions, including these:

- Who are we?
- How do we see ourselves?
- Who are we called to be as a congregation?
- How do we want to develop?
- What kind of ministerial partner do we need?

Our UU community will consider these questions through a process the Search Committee will design, potentially including surveys and small group discussions, and certainly with the broadest possible involvement.

The Search Committee will summarize this information and share it with ministerial candidates to help them determine if they are inspired to pursue a possible match with us, and it will be used by the Search Committee to evaluate potential candidates. The answers to these questions will also serve to guide UUCM leadership as we shape plans for the months and years ahead.

This process will be a unique opportunity for us all to engage in thoughtful introspection and do some inspired "imagining" about our future. This will be a critical part of our search process and another key milestone in our development as a UU community.

- Rob

Board of Trustees May Meeting Highlights

- Approved the Treasurer's Report
- Conducted detailed review of proposed budget for 2015-16, including key assumptions.
- Approved the proposed budget for presentation to the congregation and for approval vote at the May 31st annual meeting.
- Discussed next steps for the Ministerial Search Committee
- Developed plans in preparation for the annual meeting
- Appointed Rev. David Usher as UUCM minister to conduct wedding services

General Assembly Meeting JUNE 24-18, 2015 IN PORTLAND, OREGON

A remarkable fifteen people (or is it, fifteen remarkable people?) will be attending this year's national General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, June 24 – 28, along with the Minister. They are George and Janet Dunstan, Scottie Hart, Kia Hatch, Joel and Theresa Houtman, Keith Johnson, Willow Karow, Carol Kuczora, Sam Lautzenhisser, Bev Lyon, Bob and Claire Miller, Leal Portis and Carol Wong. They will be collectively leading the service on July 5, reporting on their experience and impressions from the General Assembly.

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.*

Stewardship Committee

Generosity Campaign Most Successful Ever

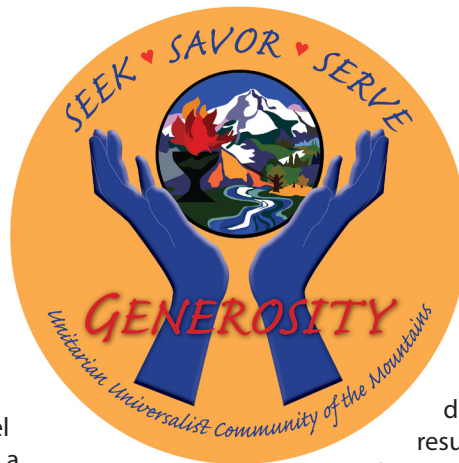
By Rev. David Usher,
UUCM Interim Minister

The recently completed Generosity Campaign has been the most successful Annual Pledge Canvass in UUCM's history. There were many who in so many ways contributed to the campaign's success, but the Campaign Team of Christy Barden, Dawn Bateman, Kia Hatch, Wally Holtan, Joel Houtman, Keith Johnson and Bob Miller did a superb job, and were led with remarkable energy by Beryl Beckwith as Chair. They also benefited greatly from the professional consulting of Bud Swank who provided a steady and reassuring voice in addition to a very clear process.

For those who like numbers, here are some.

Total raised to date:	\$177,680
Total pledging units:	99
Average pledge:	\$1,794
Number of increased pledges:	53
Number of decreased pledges:	24
Number of unchanged pledges:	15
Number of new pledges:	7

There are four pledges from last year which are expected and which, if received at the same level, will realize an additional \$2,930, making a total of \$180,610. Thank you to all who contributed in any way.



Auction Special!

The Spring Auction was a great success this year. It was a fun evening with a catered dinner and lots of competitive bidding. As a result many members will be getting together for all sorts of events including dinners and excursions. Our own Beryl Maclean Beckwith, and daughter Robyn, donated their 2015 Junior Suite week at Pueblo Bonito Emerald Bay, Nuevo Mazatlan, Mexico.

The winning bidder at the Spring Auction will be using the donated 2015 week in 2016, thus that week will not be able to be auctioned next year. But wait! Beryl and Robyn are generously re-offering the 2015 week in Mexico to a lucky bidder for the original minimum bid amount of \$650, or higher. If you're interested in a fantastic destination vacation in 2015 for a terrific price, please contact Beryl at 510-384-7162 for more details. Your successful bid will continue to benefit UUCM Stewardship fund-raising efforts.



This premier resort on the Pacific Ocean in Nuevo Mazatlan is the perfect place to take a relaxing vacation. Immaculate and pristine! Suites have outdoor balcony ocean views and kitchenettes. The junior suite has two beds and sleeps 4 maximum. The only black-out dates are during the holidays from December 20, 2015 to Jan 2, 2016. To see more of this spectacular property and amenities, please look at <http://www.pueblobonitoemeraldbay.com>.

Membership and Hospitality

End of the Year Outdoor Service is Sunday, June 21st at 11:00 a.m.

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 will 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! Please don't bring alcohol as we do not have a permit for it.

How CAN YOU HELP?

We will need help setting up, cleaning up, and barbecuing. 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.

Seven New Members Welcomed at May 31 Service

OUR NEXT "INTRO TO UUCM" CLASS WILL BE HELD NEXT FALL

We welcomed seven people at our service on Sunday, May 31st. Please take the time to welcome these new members: Ardie Andrews, Paul Broughton, Kate and Dave Canan, Karen Copening, Peter Musser and Marilyn Young. Photos and biographies of these new people will be included in the July edition of the Mountain Chalice.

The next class for those considering becoming a member at UUCM will be held on Saturday, October 10th. It will be 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.

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

Hospitality Training Available

If you would like to help set up and/or clean up the coffee and snack table, but don't know your way around the UUCM kitchen, Carol Kuczora would be happy to show you the ropes. She can show you where supplies are stored, how much coffee to make, how to operate our dishwashers, and lots more.

Please come back to the kitchen and look for Carol or one of the other regular volunteers (David Ferrier and Donna Foddrell) and let them know you'd like to help. You can help provide a much needed and appreciated service for your fellow parishioners. This is a perfect job for someone who wants to contribute, but isn't ready to make the commitment to be on a committee.

Starting June 28th at UUCM, we'll just have one service each Sunday through September 6th, so the coffee hour will follow the service as in the past. We will need people to come before the 11:00 service to get the coffee made, and/or to stay after to clean up and put away any left overs.

And, as always, 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!*

New Member Mentor Program Begins!

By Kathryn Young, UUCM Membership Chair

Help the Membership Committee make UUCM a truly welcoming Congregation by becoming a New Member Mentor!

A small group of people met in May to discuss how the mentoring program might work. Our goal is to help new members get connected, find activities they enjoy, and feel welcome. So far we have Phil Hart, Scottie Hart and Brendan Banister participating. We could use a few more people!

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 committee by becoming a mentor, please talk to Kathryn Young or one of the greeters at the welcome table in the foyer any Sunday, or send an e-mail to kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathryn Young, *chair*
Kathy MacLeod, Claire Miller,
and 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!*

Committee Updates

Very Successful Building & Grounds Work Day in May

NEXT WORK SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH AT 9:00 AM

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

We had a tremendous work day this month. We had six new people show up to help with our many projects. We welcome Jennifer Lunsford, Terry and Carol Holliman, Tom Wilson and Jake and Logan from Hospitality House. It is amazing what can be accomplished with a group of dedicated individuals. I keep thinking what a great opportunity for people at UUCM to meet new people and have a rewarding experience with companionship, service, fun and a fantastic lunch.

This is what we accomplished in three hours. We finished our project of preparing for barking the remaining area in the front of the church, completed the switching of our water to the drip system for our water conservation, and started to do window cleaning. We cleaned the nursery, kitchen, vacuumed the chairs in the sanctuary, and started cleaning out the vacant garages. If you have not seen the redecorated Emerson room upstairs you should go up and look at the room. Thank you goes out to Amy Reneé and Mike Stolla for their generous donations.

What a great day! 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. Come dip your toe in the water... It's a great way to make friends and contribute! The next scheduled work day is June 20th, 2015. Hope to see you there.



*A few UUCM folks enjoy our new outdoor benches
in the front of the church!*

*Many hands made light work of the project, spreading one and a half tons
of gravel, constructing benches, moving pots and planting flowers...
finished on Saturday, and put to use on Sunday!*



Come Enjoy our New Conversation Area in the Front of the Church!

By Theresa Houtman

Saturday, May 23, Theresa and Joel Houtman were joined by George Dunstan and his big truck, Janet Bullock, Kia Hatch, Beth Freedman, Keith Johnson and David MacLeod to haul and unload a ton and a half of beautiful blue gravel.

This awesome group came to Theresa's call for help with about 18 hours notice on a holiday weekend. She will be singing their praises for a very long time. Theresa had the weed cloth laid and ready when the crew arrived, and the gravel was distributed and spread in less than an hour. They also cleaned up and spread gravel around the bike rack area. The crew's final job was transporting two sixty pound cobalt blue planters to the area near the entrance.

By 4:30 p.m., after several trips to local stores, Theresa and Joel completed planting the pots and constructing benches for our new conversation pit in front of the church. As you can see from the photo, these benches were in constant use before and between services on Sunday. They have been thoroughly "christened".

Everyone involved in this project seemed to be having great fun, and they sure worked together well. Our next project will be benches where the planters were in the shady alcove outside the door of the Alcott room. If you wish to have a bunch of fun working with friends and make our church more beautiful and inviting, come join our Saturday, June 20th work day.

Committee Updates

Joel Houtman's Chancel Piece (UUCM logo medallion) Dedicated at Earth Day Service

By Robin Hart, Chair,
Art and Aesthetics Committee

On April 12th, the congregation was treated to the unveiling and dedication of the new chancel piece for the UUCM sanctuary. The Art and Aesthetics committee was able to enlist Joel Houtman to create a wood medallion, re envisioning Barbara Hoyt's UUCM logo design, in bass relief.

This became a labor of love for Joel, a talented woodworker, who put over 120 hours into its creation. The logo medallion is 36" in diameter, and is made from over 16 species of wood Joel generously donated from his work shop. Using a wire-frame template of the logo as a guide, Joel carefully cut and shaped each of the 57 pieces, fitting them together like a puzzle. This was then mounted on a piece of re purposed plywood that was formerly used as paneling in our building.

Joel did not use stain on any of the wood, but only added a clear coating to enhance and protect the natural colors and characteristics. Asked what was his biggest challenge in the project, Joel replied "Getting the color and grain to work together, both close up and from a distance in all the pieces."

UUCM Board President Rob Ferroggiaro presented Joel with a brass dedication plaque that was later installed under the medallion.



Joel Houtman stands beside our new chancel piece he created – a beautiful and unique interpretation of our UUCM logo, made from 16 species of wood.

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:

- Sharon Moore in hospice care loves receiving cards
- Alan Johnston will be going home the first week in June after surgery on his fractured femur, and six weeks of PT
- Anne Lyon recovering from a broken ankle – she is now driving and getting physical therapy
- Jim Lowe recovering from surgery – we miss his music while he is away
- Sunny Holmes suffered a spinal compression fracture
- Pat Paddock has recently given up her car and could really use help with rides
- Marcella Hardt has recently returned to Eskaton in Grass Valley

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.

Second All Congregational Social Justice Workshop SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 12:30 P.M.

By Bonnie Bennett, Chair,
Social Justice Coordinating Council

Thank you UUCM for contributing to the success of our first Social Justice Workshop by your attendance, engagement, and enthusiasm. Evan Junker of the CA UU Justice Ministry reminded us that social justice and being in the world is core to our faith. UUs have a long history of standing up for what is right and standing on the side of love: civil rights, marriage equality, immigration reform. The liberation of all is bound up with our own. It is our destiny and our calling to concern ourselves with the larger beloved community and life in the here and now.

Please join us for our second Social Justice Workshop on Sunday, June 14 right after the 11:30 AM service. We've honored our past and present social justice work which is impressive, and at the June 14 workshop, we will, together, start figuring out the future social justice focus which will be integrated into all aspects of our congregational life.

The journey continues on Sunday, June 14th. Don't miss it!

Social Justice Activities

Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepares Meal at Utah's Place

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 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 265-3887 or portis.leal@gmail.com.

GREEN Power Points

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

PAINT IT GREEN

If the interior or exterior of your home needs a new coat, don't lift a brush without visiting the Sierra Club's guide to environmentally sound painting. Get Going: www.sierraclub.org/sierra/paint

GO NATIVE

If you're spiffing up your yard this spring and summer, commit to planting only indigenous species. Be mindful of water requirements since we're in a drought zone and need to take even more care than usual. You can also use plants to attract helpful animal life, such as birds, and repel undesirables like insects, but remember that you're creating an ecosystem, and it needs to make sense as a whole. Get advice from a conservation-minded garden center or landscape architect (or one of our friends from the Master Gardeners group). Get Going: A great native plant database: www.wildflower.org/plants

(Tip from my 2009 Page-A-Day Calendar)

Humane Society Animal Lobby Day

*By Carol Hyndman, Chair,
UUCM Animal Ministry*

On Tuesday, June 23, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) will hold a lobby day in Sacramento. It will be from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Capitol Events Center located at 1020 11th Street. The registration is \$20. This includes a vegan lunch. For more info, e-mail hcarpenter@humanesociety.org or contact me at 477-0693 or countrycattery@gmail.com. We will lobby for a ban on Ivory sales and to ban the use of bull hooks for training elephants. I would like to go and if anyone

would like to carpool please let me know. I have been to lobby day events before and it is an interesting day.

DONATE FOOD FOR HUNGRY PETS

Please remember to bring donations for Sammie's Friends Animal Shelter to UUCM on the first Sunday of each month.



Fourth Friday Film Series PRESENTS "COWSPIRACY: THE SUSTAINABILITY SECRET" FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M. AT UUCM

Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret (85 minutes) is a ground-breaking feature-length environmental documentary following intrepid filmmaker Kip Andersen as he uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today – and investigates why the world's leading environmental organizations are too afraid to talk about it.

Animal agriculture is the leading cause of deforestation, water consumption and pollution, is responsible for more greenhouse gases than the transportation industry, and is a primary driver of rainforest destruction, species extinction, habitat loss, topsoil erosion, ocean "dead zones," and virtually every other environmental ill. Yet it goes on, almost entirely unchallenged. This documentary reveals the absolutely devastating environmental impact large-scale factory farming has on our planet, and offers a path to global sustainability for a growing population. For more information, please see: <http://www.cowspiracy.com/>

Discussion to follow film. Refreshments will be available. \$5 - \$10 donation requested; no one turned away for lack of funds. Co-sponsored by The Nevada County Peace and Justice Center and the UUCM Social Justice Coordinating Council.

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

Heroes and Dreams

When I was in fifth grade I started piano lessons, at my dad's suggestion – as a kid, he'd always wanted to learn to play the piano. He found a classical piano teacher, and I liked learning how the notes on the page matched the piano keys and practicing scales, but when I started playing pieces, I discovered two things: I didn't like the pieces I was supposed to play, and it was much easier to memorize them than to read the notes on the page. Eventually I quit, because reading music and playing classical pieces weren't ways I wanted to be musical. But I loved making the piano sing, and it was one of my first experiences of doing something grown-up and important.

When I became an elementary school teacher, I discovered I had an affinity for fifth grade. The kids still had the enthusiasm of childhood, and were old enough to be starting to think about the real world and ask good questions about it. They hadn't yet hit puberty, with all its confusion, uncertainty and woe, nor the cynicism and competition of high school, when they'd discover the world isn't really how they've been taught it should be. Fifth grade, to me, represented the best of that balance between child and adult that we all hope to sustain into our later years.

As adults we tend to think of our heroes as other adults, using them for inspiration, guidance, internal support, calming ourselves down, and so forth. One of our UU sources is "words and deeds of prophetic men and women." I would add "and children" to that – my heroes have always been children. Remember the old stories about kids who did something amazing? One of my favorites is the one about the Dutch child who kept his finger in the dike through a long night, and saved his town from being drowned. That story of courage and endurance is also about how all our actions, even stopping a trickle of water with our finger, can make a difference. Another story I love is about the child who said the emperor had no clothes. That one embodies innocence, clarity, and trust, with a deeper message about speaking the truth in loving community.

Though I didn't continue with piano lessons as a kid, they gave me dreams and skills I needed later as I played the guitar,

wrote folk songs, played drums, sang in choirs, did solo vocals, and led choral groups. And my dad, in his seventies, took some piano lessons and had a ball. Can you think back to a childhood time when you realized that you would be an adult someday, with things that you could do in the world outside your family? Who were your heroes? What did you dream of doing? May we all be able to bring our hero dreams into our present lives.

Choir News

Morning and Evening choirs are combining into one group for June through August, practicing the first three Monday evenings of each month from 5:30 to 7 p.m., but not singing for services. Janet Bullock will be stepping down as choir director, and Annie Haymaker will direct the choir starting in July, with Janet as assistant. This is our traditional "no-guilt" summer choir, a good time to drop in, sing with us, and see if you might like to join. For more information, call Annie at 477-0701.

Music Director to be Appointed

Thanks to the success of the Generosity Campaign, UUCM will be seeking to appoint a Music Director to assume responsibilities for all aspects of the music program. A job description and hiring process is being put together, and it is planned for the person to begin duties on 1 September. Meanwhile, our thoughts and prayers are with our long-time pianist, Jim Lowe, as he struggles with some serious health issues.

Final Drumming Circle June 3

By David Ferrier

After several years of facilitating the Drum Circle at UUCM, the time has come to move on to other interests. It has been great fun sharing drums and drumming with so many wonderful people. I hope that you have all benefited on some level from drumming. I have found it deeply satisfying and it has enriched my life in many ways.

So, Drum Circle is happening one final time on Wednesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. The usual place, 246 S. Church Street, Grass Valley. Let's go to the Holbrooke for a cool one afterwards!

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Picnic Service at Condon Park

SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST, STARTING AT 11:00 A.M.

UUCM will hold its annual Picnic Service in Condon Park on Sunday, June 21st, and we will be particularly delighted to welcome Taylor Carey's great bluegrass band, The Banner Mountain Boys. BBQ hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs, as well as iced tea, lemonade and water will be provided, but please bring salads, breads, desserts etc to share. Alcohol is not permitted.

Women's Circle – Movie & Dinner Night

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015

The women of UUCM will be going out on the town at our next meeting. Last year, we met for dinner at California Organics on Argall Street in Nevada City, and then to the Magic Theater for a movie afterward. If there is a good movie on at Magic Theater that week, we'll do it again. If not, we'll choose an alternative restaurant and movie theater.

The time, location and movie will be announced prior to the meeting through our Women's Circle e-mail group. If you are not on the list to receive e-mails from the UUCM Women's Circle and wish to be, please let us know and we'll add you! Contact either Clarita Nolan: photosbyclarita@att.net, (530.575.2229) or Kathryn Young, kathryneyounguu@gmail.com, (530.478.1329).

UU Women are Walking!

EVERY OTHER MONDAY, JUNE 1 AND JUNE 15

Join in! A delightful group of UU women are walking for a couple hours twice a month, getting both exercise and companionship. Our next hike will be June 1 at the Tribute Trail in Nevada City. We're meeting at the trail head near Miner's Foundry at 9:00 a.m. For information about times, carpools, and locations, please contact Kathryn Young (kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.)



Theresa Houtman gets close and personal to a many-legged friend she met on our last hike on the Independence Trail in Nevada City

Vegetable Garden Update

The vegetable garden has been planted. Be sure and check it out regularly, and see how your plants are progressing. There may be a little weeding needed, but things have been deliberately planted fairly close together, so that "the good stuff" will smother out the weeds and make our life easier. By midsummer the first vegetables will be ready for harvesting.

UUCM Humanism Discussion Group

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015 AT 10:30 AM

By George Dunstan

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 3rd from 10:30 until noon at UUCM in the Channing room.

For further information, please contact George Dunstan (477-7635 or vggeode@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.

New Men's Group Book Club

A group of men meet to discuss books at 10:30 a.m. on first and third Thursdays at What's Up Coffee. These meetings follow the regular Men's Group meetings that start at 8:30 a.m. every Thursday. Contact Mel Berry at melnannie@yahoo.com or 530-559-0904 for more information.

Meditation

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.

Community Connections – The Larger Community

UUCM to Serve as Overflow Homeless Shelter?

*Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister*

A dozen people met in May to discuss how UUCM could be an occasional emergency overflow homeless shelter when Utah's Place is full and would otherwise have to turn people away to sleep on the street. On average, this currently happens about fifteen times a year, with no discernible seasonal pattern, and never for more than 5 – 10 people on any one night.

The proposal is to spend the summer organizing volunteers etc, and then to start offering the facility in September or October. More volunteers are needed – either to be an overnight monitor or to help with collecting the guests and doing some grocery shopping for some breakfast basics.

Keith Johnson is leading this effort, and Bob Miller is creating a volunteer database. Please see either of them if you would like to help in this excellent and much-needed endeavour.

UUCM hosting Japanese Language Program

For a month this summer, the upstairs apartment at UUCM will be used during the week by a Language Program for seven Japanese teenagers. If you would like to host one of these guests in your home, please see the poster in the church hallway.

Between Heaven and Earth: The Progress of the Beloved Community

*MONDAY, JUNE 8TH AT 7:00 P.M.
EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH*

This talk will be about the religious background of Josiah Royce's family, specifically the utopian ideas in the part of New York they came from before journeying to California, and how it affected his thought and formed the roots of the idea of "beloved community" in Royce's works.

Church Divestment from Fossil Fuels

*MONDAY, JUNE 8TH AT 7:00 P.M.
NEVADA CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

Reverend Sharon Delgado will present the rationale for divestment from fossil fuels by the Methodist and other churches and institutions, in response to climate change, and how fossil fuel companies lobby and fund climate change denial.

Adult R.E. Opportunity

Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health Book Discussion

*THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE ANTHONY ROOM AT UUCM*

*By Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister*

A practical manual, designed for use by anyone seeking a fuller, more meaningful life - "life measured by quality and intensity, not quantity" - within the context of everyday demands and distractions. It does not assume any formal belief system or religious affiliation on the part of the reader, although it draws inspiration from a wide range of world faiths. The journey to spiritual health can start at any point, and the twelve steps of this book do not have to be followed in strict sequence, provided that readers are willing to be led out of their familiar comfort zones at some point. The journey can be undertaken alone, or by groups of like-minded people as a shared exercise. Each chapter ends with questions for individual reflection or group discussion.

What you need: A copy of *Twelve Steps to Spiritual Health* by David Usher for \$15. Books are available in the UUCM office. Please make checks payable to David Usher. For more information, contact David (minister.uugv@gmail.com or 274-1661).

Religious Education Updates

Claire Miller steps in as Religious Education Coordinator

We thank Claire Miller for agreeing to act as Volunteer Religious Education Coordinator for the coming year. When Claire first became a member of the Reno UU Church, the RE program consisted of just a handful of children and had no paid Director. Claire volunteered to get things going, and within two years there were more than fifty children on the register and Reno now has not only a Director of Religious Education, but a full-time paid Minister of Religious Education. She has already shown much energy in getting things re-kindled here, with help and input from several others.

Thank you, Claire!



Summer Plan for RE

The Sunday school year with structured classes is coming to a close. Join us on Sunday May 31st in celebration of all the good things in our lives. Children will be doing a short presentation during the second service, delivering their message of Thankfulness.

Starting June 7th, Xing will be with us for every Sunday during the summer. She will be based in the nursery (but may take children outside for garden visits or play, or upstairs to the larger classrooms, depending on attendance on any given day). Children up to 12 will be welcome to join her and her adult helpers for age appropriate play, games, stories, and discussions. Older children (or younger if they choose) are welcome to attend services with their parents.

Apartment Retained for RE Use

Following the resounding success of the Generosity Campaign, the minister will now not be moving into the apartment, which will be retained for use by the RE program. The Board is actively pursuing other mid-week rental options for the apartment.

Looking Ahead: Events for All Ages This Summer

By Claire Miller, (truckeeclaire@yahoo.com)

Coordinator of RE Programs for Children and Youth

HIKE FOR ALL AGES - SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Day hike in the Sierras, within 1 hour's drive of Grass Valley. Join UU friends for a day in the outdoors. Bring your friends, get some exercise, and breathe cool mountain air. Out and back trail – so suitable for varying ability/fitness levels.

UUCM ANNUAL PICNIC SERVICE AT CONDON PARK SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST, STARTING AT 11:00 A.M.

BBQ hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs, water, lemonade and iced tea will be provided after the service – please bring salads, finger foods, desserts, etc. to share. Please do not bring alcohol.

CASUAL PICNIC FOR ALL AGES SATURDAY, JULY 18TH

Meet at Condon Park at 5 p.m., bring your own picnic supper, favorite game equipment, and your friends for an evening of fun, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. Suitable for everyone.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PLANNING MEETING SUNDAY, JULY 26TH

Following the Sunday Service, there will be an afternoon meeting called "Planning our RE program for the next year". Religious educator Karen Foster from Reno, will be with us to lead the service and then guide our discussion. All parents and teens are encouraged to participate. This is YOUR program. Let's work out how to make it the very best possible!!

HIKE FOR ALL AGES SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST

We will choose a different trail from June 13th, but otherwise a very similar event.

FAMILY CAMPING TRIP AT SCOTT'S FLAT FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST – SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD

Contact Beth Freedman for more details (bethannfreedman@gmail.com or 530 575 9319).

June Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
MAY			
30	Saturday	8.00 a	Yard Sale Fund-raiser (off site)
31	Sunday	9.45 11.30 1.00	Sunday Service Sunday Service Annual Congregational Meeting
JUNE			
1	Monday	9.00 5.30	Walking Women (off site) Choir Rehearsal
2	Tuesday	9.00 12.30	Meditation Stewardship Committee
3	Wednesday	8.30 10.30 7.00	Men's Group Humanist Group Drumming Circle
4	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Men's Group Book Club (off site)
7	Sunday	9.45 11.30	Sunday Service Sunday Service
8	Monday	9.00 5.30	2nd Monday Covenant Group Choir Rehearsal
9	Tuesday	9.00 4.00 6.00	Meditation Caring Committee Women's Group (off site)
10	Wednesday	8.30 11.00	Men's Group Habitat Humanity Lunch Prep
11	Thursday	8.30 10.30 6.00	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Writers' Group Board of Trustees Meeting
14	Sunday	9.45 11.30 12.30	Sunday Service Sunday Service Social Justice Workshop
15	Monday	9.00 4.00 5.30	Walking Women (off site) Membership Committee Choir Party (off site)
16	Tuesday	9.00 1.00 7.00	Morning Meditation Grandmothers for Peace Climate Change Coalition

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
17	Wednesday	8.30 6.30	Men's Group Bonnie B Chalice Group (off site)
18	Thursday	8.30 10.30 2.00 7.00	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Men's Group Book Club (off site) Barbara Covenant Group Twelve Steps Study Group
19	Friday	12.00 4.00	Deadline for June Mt. Chalice Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
20	Saturday	9.00 12.30	Building & Grounds Work Day Building & Grounds Meeting
21	Sunday	11.00 12.00	Sunday Service at Condon Park BBQ & Potluck at Condon Park
23	Tuesday	9.00 6.30	Morning Meditation Worship Committee Meeting
24-28	Wed-Sun	-	Trip to General Assembly in Portland, OR
24	Wednesday	8.30 4.30	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting
25	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Writers Group
26	Friday	7.00	Fourth Friday Film
28	Sunday	11.00	Sunday Service
30	Tuesday	9.00	Meditation
JULY			
1	Wednesday	8.30 10.30	Men's Group Humanist Group
4	Thursday	8.30 10.30	Men's Coffee Group (off site) Men's Group Book Club (off site)

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 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

NEW! Summer Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

UUCM STAFF MEMBER

Reverend David Usher, Interim Minister
Conrad Sisk, Office Administrator

E-MAIL ADDRESS

minister.uugv@gmail.com
admin@uugrassvalley.org

TELEPHONE

530.274.1661
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