

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

February 2016

UPCOMING SERVICES

Each Sunday, services are offered at both 9:45 A.M. AND 11:30 A.M.

• • •
Social hour is between the two services; please stay after the first service, or come early to the second one.

• • •
Religious Education classes for all children and teens are during the 9:45 A.M. service.
Nursery care is available for both services.

• • •
January 31 **Rev. David Usher**
Musicians: Taylor Carey and Kathryn Young
With hymns chosen by May Lawrence

February 7 **Gail Johnson-Vaughn**
Imagine: Spiritual Humanism in our Lives

This service will allow you to learn about Humanism by experiencing it. Please join worship leaders George Dunstan, Bob Branstrom, Joel & Theresa Houtman, David Briggs, and Judith Ellen O'Neill in a morning full of song, spoken word, personal reflection, and visual imagery.
Please remember to bring gifts of non-perishable food for the Interfaith Food Ministry.

February 14 **Rev. Amanda Ford**
Worship Associate: Carol Holliman

Pass the plate offering for Environmental Justice Coalition for Water. See page 8 for more information.

February 21 **Rev. David Usher**
Musicians: UUCM Choir
with hymns chosen by Rob Ferroggiaro

February 28 **Rev. David Usher**
Hymns chosen by Beryl Maclean Beckwith
New Member Welcome Ceremony

March 6 **Jerry Jacoby**

When asked a question about the universe the only mature response is to "look and see." To the question, "What happens when we die?" philosophers and theologians for thousands of years have pointed to their sacred literature, but the only mature response is to "Ask someone who has been there." *Please remember to bring gifts of non-perishable food for the Interfaith Food Ministry.*

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Rev. David Usher
UUCM Interim Minister

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I wonder who your new settled minister will be. Of course I am curious to know who will be taking over UUCM's ministerial reins, especially now as the Search Committee is entering the crucial stage of actually meeting with the interested applicants and the time approaches when they will announce their chosen candidate. I suspect you are more than mildly curious and excited as well.

The Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop, hosted by the Search Committee last November and so ably led by Jo Victoria, was designed to overcome expectations based on ill-considered stereotypes (the minister must be 28 years old with 40 years experience; must have a family but work 80 hours a week; must spend several hours each day making pastoral calls and always be in the office when needed, etc.), and the Survey has helped the Search Committee to know the congregation's profile very well.

But however thorough the preparation, however scientific the process, ultimately a settled ministry is about a relationship that cannot be neatly quantified. Like internet dating, you can write all sorts of flattering things about yourself, and define all sorts of desiderata in a prospective mate, but the real question cannot be answered until you actually meet. Are you a fit? Can you as a congregation be in meaningful relationship with each other? Not just you personally, but you as a congregation.

I am very excited for you. I hope you are excited for you too.

See you in church!

David

Rev. David Out of the Office

FEBRUARY 1ST TO 16TH

Rev. David Usher will be visiting his eldest daughter in Thailand, February 1 - 16. He will be checking emails periodically, but in case of a pastoral emergency please in the first instance contact Conrad Sisk at the church office (530-274-1675 or admin@uugrassvalley.org).

Congregation Shares Their Dreams

As part of the service on January 17, Martin Luther King Jr Day, the congregation was invited to write down their dreams for what American society might look like. Many people did so, and what they wrote is available on the website, along with Rev. David Usher's sermon. Please see this link: <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/multimedia-archive/do-you-have-a-dream/>

Mountain Chalice to Experiment with Different Frequency

One of the findings from the recent survey about The Mountain Chalice was that a significant number of the 54 respondents agreed that changing the frequency from monthly to every two months would be a more efficient use of the substantial staff and volunteer time it takes to produce it.

As an experiment, the February issue will remain as normal, for one month only, but the next two issues will be for March/April and May/June.

To compensate, the weekly eChalice will give notice for programs and events in the coming two weeks, and the Board and committees will make greater use of UU General for the dissemination of information about governance and other institutional business.



Rev. David leads Unitarian Universalist tour to England

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 7

Rev. David will be leading a group of Unitarian Universalists on a tour of England, September 27 until October 7, 2016, staying in London, Oxford, Bath, Salisbury and Windsor and lots of beautiful places in between. This is something he has done several times before, not only for UUs but for all kinds of other groups. Ask him for details if you are interested.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.discovereuropeltd.com/unitarian-england-27-september-7-october-2016/>

Board's Perspective



Amy René Patterson
UUCM Vice President

Vice President's Perspective

Hello everyone,

The Board is pleased to announce that after two long years we have approved the purchase and implementation of new church management software called Ministry Tracker. Ministry Tracker is a fully-featured church management software package that exceeds our current database software needs as expressed by the stakeholders in this project; the administrator, the minister, Membership, Stewardship, and Religious Education committees. It is backed by an established and reputable company that is exceptionally energized and engaged with its work. The new software will streamline many processes for our administrator and Committees; e.g. we will now have just one data base to update, not three.

There was an extensive and comprehensive process to select this software. The Board wants to give a great big thank you to Conrad for his tenacity and dedication to finding the best software for UUCM, we couldn't have done this without him. We sincerely thank his hard working and talented team as well; Dave Canan, Phil Hart, and Carol Holliman, especially to Carol who was instrumental in shaping and guiding the selection process. We also thank the stakeholders who invested their time and talent to the selection process; Janet Dunstan, Beryl Maclean Beckwith, Claire Miller, David Usher, and Kathryn Young, especially Beryl, who worked as both a stakeholder and a team member in the critical final stages of the selection process.

The work of installation, data migration and training has yet to be done, but in the next months Ministry Tracker will be up and running. Once we make the transition, we will not access member information through Congregation Builder any longer and yes this will require some patience as we all learn how to use new church software; however, the benefits will be well worth the investment required when learning something new.

Boy, it feels great to accomplish these big things!

– Amy René

Attending Board Meetings

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

Board of Trustees January Meeting Highlights

- The Board approved Ministry Tracker as our new Church Software
- The Board approved a background check policy
- The Board will function as a Chalice Circle for an initial trial period; the next three months meetings will start with a closed session from 6:00 - 6:30. The Board meeting will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Vision Day

The Board and committee chairs will gather on January 30 to articulate and celebrate the vision for the coming year, a year with the added excitement of the search for the next settled minister. Outcomes from the day will be shared as soon as possible.

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

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

Members at Large:

Dawn Bateman, Kern Hildebrand,
David MacLeod, Carol Wong

*Board of Trustees meetings are held on the second
Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M.
in the Channing Room at UUCM.
Members are welcome to observe with prior notice.*

More Board News

Board Meetings to Use Chalice Circle Format

The Board is keen to encourage as many UUCM members and friends as possible to participate in a Chalice Circle. These are groups of no more than twelve people who have a common purpose and who, when they meet, follow a format which invites more open and intimate sharing. As part of that encouragement, the Board plans to devote the first thirty minutes of its monthly meetings to being a Chalice Circle. This will not be open to visitors, but visitors are welcome to observe the business part of Board meetings which will start at 6:30. If you want to observe, please notify the Vice President, Amy Renéé (amyreneep@yahoo.com or 530-273-4681), in advance. Observers are allowed to speak at meetings only if specifically given permission to do so.

Board Invites Your Input on Membership Policy

The Board is developing a Membership Policy to clarify some questions which currently are unclear.

- How do you become a member?
- What are the rights, privileges and expectations of membership?
- How do you cease being a member?

The Board has already had conversations with the Membership Committee about how best to proceed, but it also invites your input. You are invited to attend an Open Conversation with the Board, 5:00 – 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 17

Change of Date for February Board Meeting

Please note: Board meetings are usually on the second Thursday of the month. In February, the meeting will be on the third Wednesday, February 17.

Town Talk

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 12:45 P.M.

The next Congregational Town Talk will be after the second service on Sunday, March 20. More information will be in the March/April Mountain Chalice.

Search Committee



Exciting Times in the Search Process!

The Ministerial Search Committee has entered one of the most exciting phases of our search, interviewing applicants eager to join and serve our congregation. All of our interviews have been conducted by Skype teleconferencing, which has proven to be a very effective medium for this purpose.

By the time you read this we will have completed the interviews and selected as many as four applicants to continue on as pre-candidates. Each of these will be given an opportunity to give a sermon at a neutral pulpit. As satisfactory as Skype has been, however, there is no substitute for getting to know our applicants in person.

The pre-candidating weekends will give us our first opportunities to do so. We would love to share more information with you so that you could be as excited as we are, but the integrity of the selection process commands that we contain our enthusiasm a while longer. We can share that we have been pleased with our applicants and are optimistic for our future. The days ahead promise to be the most exciting of all.

*Blessings,
Your Search Committee*

YOUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Taylor Carey, Chair

George Dunstan, Associate Chair

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

Transition Team & Committee on Ministry

State of the UUnion

By Rev. David Usher, Interim Minister

The Congregational Survey organized by the Ministerial Search Committee provided some rich information about ourselves and a wonderful opportunity for some reflection about that information.

About 70 people stayed after the second service on January 10 for the State of the UUnion presentation sponsored by the Transition Team. The four members of the Team - Allan Duncan, David Ferrier, Suzanne Ferroggiaro and Tom Wernigg - introduced the meeting with a reminder about the purpose and function of Interim Ministry and of their own work as the Transition Team, then Rev. David Usher offered his perspectives. There was time for a dozen or so comments afterwards.

The meeting was a very positive step forward and much appreciated by those who attended. A full transcript of the meeting is available on the Forum, or by request to the church office.

Transition Team Information

By Suzanne Ferroggiaro, Chair

Transition Team and Committee on Ministry

The Transition Team meets with Rev. David Usher as we journey through our Interim Ministry together. The Committee on Ministry is part of the Transition Team, so this is the group to contact regarding our shared ministry and congregational relations.

Our Covenant of Right Relations is UUCM's guiding principle. Please see the Covenant and the Options for Addressing Challenges on our web site before contacting us about attending a meeting: <http://www.ugrassvalley.org/about-us/covenant-of-right-relations/>

Then, if there's anything you'd like to bring to the team's attention, please contact one of the members below. Attendance is by prior arrangement only, since people may be bringing deeply personal situations to the team.

Suzanne Ferroggiaro suzanneferro17@gmail.com
David Ferrier davidsdrums@gmail.com
Allan Duncan
Tom Wernigg tomwernigg@gmail.com

Join the UUCM Ushering Team!

Come Usher With Us!

Melissa Ridgway,
Usher Coordinator

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

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

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

Thank you all for your service!

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

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

Short Term Chalice Circle Forming for New UUs

If you are fairly new to UUCM and would like to get to know other newer-to-UUCM folks, Phil Hart would like to hear from you! He is starting a Chalice Circle for people who either recently joined UUCM or are considering membership. This would be a great opportunity to form a deeper connection to other members beyond what you can get from a casual conversation after church in the coffee area. This would meet once a month for 2-1/2 hours for a few months. The intention would be to form deeper bonds with other UUs, find out more about UUCM and find ways that you can serve our community as it serves you. Group size would be limited so that everyone will have a chance to share their stories.

If you want more information, please contact Phil at: 530-272-6870, home phone or email: philhart115@gmail.com

Stewardship Committee



UUCM Services Auction

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 5:30 P.M.

UU COMMUNITY OF THE MOUNTAINS

By Bob Miller

Service Auction Coordinator

Now is the time to buy your tickets to the Auction. It's on Saturday, February 13th. We start with a catered meal and move on to both a silent and live auctions. Doors open at 5:30 P.M. for early bidding. Tickets are \$25. Kids are free but let us know they are coming. Tickets are available at UUCM on Sundays or by email to bob@sierramiller.com with a promise to pay at the door!

We have lots of great events and items available such as dinners, hikes, art, vacation home rental, workshops and much more. Expect a fun evening with some irrational bidding.

We always welcome more donations of items and events. See what's already in the catalog at www.togetherauction.com/uucm then contact our consultants:

Lin Jovanović linmosaic@yahoo.com, 530-798-4773
Dave Canan ddcanan@outlook.com
Laura and Charlie Zimmerman cezwho99@yahoo.com
650-722-8194

If you see something you want but cannot be there on the night then send an email to our "absentee bidders" Laura and Charlie Zimmerman at cezwho99@yahoo.com. Tell them what you want to bid on and your maximum bid. They will attempt to get you the best deal available on the night.

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



Generosity is a Spiritual Matter: Transforming Stewardship in our Congregations

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

AT THE UU COMMUNITY OF THE MOUNTAINS

UUCM will host this workshop in which we will explore stewardship from theological, spiritual, and practical angles. There will be time for personal reflection, small group conversation, as well as opportunities to hear about other congregations' best practices. The main focus will be on the spirituality that undergirds stewardship. UU congregations in Auburn, Chico, Davis, Reno, and Sacramento have been invited.

"Generosity Is a Spiritual Matter" will be presented by Rev. Vail Weller, Congregational Giving Director at the Unitarian Universalist Association, working to help our congregations support one another through the Annual Program Fund. Vail is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist who has served congregations in Michigan and California. She lives in San Mateo with her children.

Coffee and light refreshments provided

**Generosity Celebration Sunday,
Mark April 3 in your Calendars now!!**

April 3 will be the date for UUCM's Special Generosity Celebration Sunday. Mark your calendar now, and plan to attend the service that day, as there will be great music and other treats to make sure that the day is something not to be missed, and also the most efficient and fun way for us to show how important UUCM is to each and every one of us.

More details will be shared soon, but for now – please save the date: April 3.

Membership/Hospitality

New Member Welcome Changed

TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

If you are feeling ready to take the membership plunge, and have attended one of our introductory classes, the next New Member Welcome ceremony will be on Sunday, February 28th. You need to let someone on the membership team know right away as there are several things we need to accomplish before you can participate in the ceremony. Our next Intro to UUCM class will be offered Saturday, April 16th, followed by a New Member Welcome during the month of May. Please contact Kathryn Young at 530-478-1329 or kathryneyounguu@gmail.com for more information.

Sign Up to Come Host Social Hour With Us!

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

We will be happy to train you for this wonderful job, just contact Kathryn Young (hospitality@uugrassvalley.org, 530-478-1329) or Conrad Sisk (admin@uugrassvalley.org, 530-274-1675). Thank you all for your service in our newly organized kitchen!

Hospitality/Social Hour participation sign-up page (**Make sure to click "SAVE" after you enter your availability on this form**): <https://doodle.com/poll/kd5f6egedsqwegir>

To learn more about Hospitality/Social Hour, please see this page: <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/hospitality/>

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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

Committee meetings are from 5:15 to 6:30 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Anthony Room.

We are always in need of friendly people to help greet at the door on Sunday mornings, please let us know if you would like to help.

Contact: Kathryn Young, 530-478-1329
kathryneyounguu@gmail.com

Caring Notes

Pastoral Care Notes

By Rev. David Usher, Interim Minister

We extend our sympathies to Paul Elias, whose 96 year old father died on New Year's Eve after a short time in hospital. Sunny Holmes is recovering from a second emergency operation. Kia Hatch has had a hip replacement and is doing very well. Judith O'Neill is improving after a painful bout of sciatica.

We wish Carol Holliman well in her new job, having left IBM after 31 years.

The *Mountain Chalice* Caring Notes come from individuals and from specific notes in our Joys and Concerns Caring Book. If you do not wish to have your words in the *Mountain Chalice*, please make a note in the Joys and Concerns book.

CARING COMMITTEE

Gwen Eymann, *chair*
Barbara Chesnut, Maryann Hart, Robin Hart, Jerry Jacoby,
May Lawrence, Ann Lyon, Leal Portis, Corrie Silva,
and Lynn Whitson

Committee meetings are at 4:00 p.m.
on the second Tuesday of each month
in the Anthony Room.

If you would like to reach out to members
in need with rides, hot meals, home visits and more,
please let us know.

Contact: Gwen Eymann, 530-274-7965
eymann@sbcglobal.net

Caring and Sharing in the On-Line Forum

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

Social Justice News & Activities

Social Justice Notes

By Keith Johnson, Social Justice Chair

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION FOR WATER

Please plan on attending the February 14 service as it will be a social justice extravaganza. Reverend Amanda Ford, an advocate for the EJCW will preach and then conduct a workshop after the second service at 12:45 P.M. EJCW was instrumental in helping pass the California Human Right to Water Act and the production of the documentary Thirsty for Justice. Come and hear how we can preserve the human right to water in impacted communities. The February 14 plate will go to EJCW. Thanks to Joel Houtman for organizing this important event.

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

WESTERN SIERRA YOUTHBUILD

Kudos to Beryl Beckwith for coordinating the workshop with Anita Bagwell of Western Sierra YouthBuild last month. Anita brought lots of ideas about how UUCM can support her organization, including teen mentoring, help with fundraising, and employment opportunities. See Beryl for more information.

FRIDAY FILMS

Friday Films are alive and well and under "new management". For a variety of reasons the films are no longer co-sponsored by UUCM but the show goes on under the direction of the Peace and Justice Center. A UUCM member will continue to operate the sound system and publicity will state that the content of the films does not necessarily reflect the views of UUCM. The next film will be shown on February 26.

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE T-SHIRTS

Do you have your Standing on the Side of Love t-shirt to show off at public witness events? If not, the Social Justice Committee will be ordering the shirts from the UUA Book Store soon. We'll let you know when they are available for sale.



GREEN Power Points

By Anita Wald-Tuttle

... is on vacation this month...

Hospitality House Dinner Crew Prepares Meals at Utah's Place

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT 4:00 P.M.

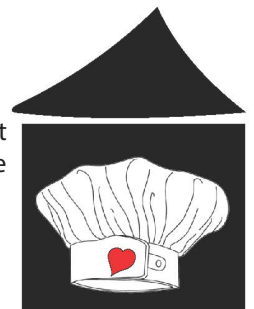
By Leal Portis

UUCM volunteers make dinner at the Hospitality House on the third and fifth Fridays each month. We also leave food for breakfast the next morning. Breakfast foods have to be packable as clients have to take breakfast and lunch with them (except on rainy/snowy days).

UUCM does not have money in its budget for this endeavor, but rather is relying on the generosity of its members.

Currently just a few folks are stepping up to the plate. It's more challenging to supply Utah's Place than it was in the past, as the Health Department requires all food to be cooked there or come from a commercial kitchen. Some folks do not care to provide food for our standard menu so give Leal money for shopping. This is acceptable as Leal does not mind shopping.

Please figure out how you can help, and contact Leal Portis at 530-265-3887 or portis.leal@gmail.com. Remember Utah Phillips was a member of UUCM and along with his wife Joanna was the founder of the homeless shelter.



UTAH'S PLACE

African Americans on South Church Street

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 7:00 P.M.

IN THE SANCTUARY

We are pleased to host a community program as part of Black History Month. In her illustrated talk Civility to All, Servility to None, Linda K. Jack, Executive Secretary of Nevada County Historical Society, will introduce us to Nevada County's African American pioneers during the Californian Gold Rush, including members of a substantial community that lived on or near South Church Street.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Women's Circle – Potluck and Game Night TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016, 6 P.M.

UUCM women are invited to a potluck dinner and we plan to play a fun game called "Two Truths and a Lie" -- a fun way to get to know each other better and have some laughs.

If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please contact either Kathryn Young or Clarita Nolan, below, or send an email to Conrad Sisk at: admin@uugrassvalley.org and he will add you. Then you'll get monthly updates and reminders of our upcoming meetings.

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

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

Men's Groups and Book Club

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

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

Women and Religion Retreat 2016 MARCH 3-6, 2016 IN NAPA, CALIFORNIA

This is your invitation to join us for the Women and Religion Retreat on March 3-6, 2016, at Enchanted Hills Camp. If you enjoyed yourself at past retreats and want to attend again, go to the W&R website and register: <http://womenandreligionpcd.org/>.

Early Bird registration is \$210 this year (\$40 savings) if you register by February 1st, 2016, (2 nights and 7 meals). After that, it will be \$250 until registration closes on February 22nd. If you can only attend on Saturday, it's just \$50 and includes 3 meals.

If you have friends who have never attended but would enjoy the weekend retreat, please refer them to the website and tell them the FIRST TIMER price is \$150, a \$100 savings off the regular retreat price (no Early Bird discount).

Scholarships may be available. If you have questions that aren't answered at the website, email me back and I'll answer you or direct your query to another retreat planner. The theme this year is "Connections" and the (optional) reading assignment is *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. Come make this YOUR retreat.

- Bev Morgan, W&R Retreat Registrar
beverly@womenandreligionpcd.org

UU Fellowship of Northern Nevada: Women's Retreat SAVE-THE-DATE: MAY 13 – 14, 2016

Kristin Famula, Connections Coordinator, UUFNN
membership@uufnn.org or 443-517-3371

Our Women's Retreat this year will be at Camp Galilee in Glenbrook, Nevada. This change of venue offers us lakeside views and a deeper connection to the natural world. Camp Galilee has a reputation for exceptional food and a welcoming environment. The sleeping arrangements will be more rustic and require four people to share a space. But remember, it is only one night!

The retreat will begin with check-in starting at 4:00 P.M. Friday evening and will conclude after dinner on Saturday night. The cost will be slightly less than previous years and will include the cost of Saturday night's meal. Price and specific details will be provided in the spring. But for now, mark your calendars for May 13 - 14 and get excited for what is already looking like an amazing retreat!

2016 WhaleCoast Alaska Tour JUNE 11-20, 2016

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

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

For more information, email the WhaleCoast Alaska tour director Dave Frey at dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966, or see www.whalecoastak.org.

Religious Education Updates



Claire Miller
Coordinator of Programs
for Children and Youth

UUCM Children & Youth Program

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

The nursery has been hopping lately – with 2 to 4 preschoolers attending regularly.

Regular Sunday morning classes, for children up to Grade 6 continue during the earlier service. Children begin the morning with their families, and then are dismissed to their classes after the story.

OWL (Our Whole Lives) comprehensive sex education program for children in Grades 7 through 10 began on January 24. Enrollment is now closed.

Teenagers are always welcome to join their families in either service. There are also several “work opportunities” available for teenagers that would like to maintain regular involvement, and contribute their energy and talents to the life of UUCM. Talk to Claire if you are interested.



Kids’ Music Night: Now Three Times a Month!

Kids’ Music Night is a gathering of a lively, enthusiastic and eclectic group of musicians - currently six regulars. New members are always welcome at all levels of skill and learning.

We are now scheduled to meet the first three Wednesdays of each month from 5:00 to 6:00 P.M. Additional practices sometimes occur at other times – by popular demand, or for a little extra coaching on individual instruments. It’s great to come a little early if you can, to get your instrument and/or voice tuned up and warmed up, so as to be ready to start making music by 5:00 P.M.

This is a chance for children to explore making music together, feeling relaxed and confident expressing their personalities through music, and most important HAVING FUN!!!! Contact Jordan or Claire for more information, &/ or to let us know you intend to come so we can plan the time accordingly.

Change in Youth OWL Schedule

There has been a change in the OWL schedule to accommodate some busy kids. Sunday, January 31, class will be at 9:00 A.M. Thereafter it will continue at 1:00 P.M. as originally planned.

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



*"Let us cultivate boundless goodwill.
Let none deceive another, or despise any being
in any state.
Let none in anger or ill-will wish another harm.
Even as a mother watches over her child, so with
boundless mind should one cherish all living beings.
Radiating friendliness over the whole world,
Above, below, and all around, without limit."*

– Metta Sutta

Adult Religious Education Opportunities

New Chalice Circle

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY: A SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

By Scottie Hart and Dawn Bateman

Dear Women of UUCM,

You are invited to join Scottie Hart and Dawn Bateman in forming a new Chalice Group called *Women's Spirituality: A Small Group Ministry*. The group will meet the first and third Thursdays of every month from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. at UUCM, with the first meeting on February 4. The purpose of the group is for the participants to build a sense of trust, mutual respect and community while exploring questions about our lives' deepest values and most meaningful spiritual practices.

To answer some of your questions about how this all works, we've prepared some Q&A:

WHAT IS A CHALICE GROUP/ SMALL GROUP MINISTRY?

The best definition we've found is "a small group of friends and members of our church whose understanding and companionship support our journey of spiritual growth. These groups offer an opportunity to share our stories, find meaning in life, and simply create community by being known to one another."

WHO CAN JOIN?

Any woman of any age. The group is open to female UUCM members, friends, visitors and others they may wish to invite.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN THE GROUP?

We are hoping to have a group of up to 12 women including the facilitators. If more than 12 are interested, we will work with the others to possibly start another group.

WHAT ARE GROUP ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS?

Regular attendance is an important element of the effectiveness of the group. Group members should be willing to commit to attend most every meeting, with obvious exceptions for important life events, etc...

The group will meet the first and third Thursdays from February through July 2016.

WHAT ELSE IS EXPECTED OF GROUP MEMBERS?

Willingness to participate in group discussions. Also, the group will perform some type of service for the church or the greater community during the six month period. The service project type and details will be up to the group. Group members will determine any other covenant agreements or expectations. Good news: group meetings will not include refreshments, so we don't need to worry about that type of effort!



HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY: A SMALL GROUP MINISTRY OR SIGN UP TO ATTEND?

Please call or email Scottie Hart at 530-272-5022 or scottiehart47@gmail.com, or Dawn Bateman at 530-273-6471 or uucm@dawnbateman.com.

We are hoping that many of you will want to join us in sharing the meaningful activities of each of our lives. We hope to hear from you!

Environmental Justice Book Study

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

AT WOLF CREEK LODGE

By Bob Miller

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

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

– Bill McKibben

We plan to meet three times. The first session is on Sunday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the sitting room of Wolf Creek Lodge. Wolf Creek Lodge is located at 800 Freeman Lane, Grass Valley, CA - see this webpage for directions: <http://www.wolfcreeklodge.org/Directions/>. Please let me know if you plan to attend: Bob Miller (bob@sierramiller.com).

February Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
JANUARY			
26	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
27	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
28	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Writers' Group
29	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
30	Saturday	9:00	Vision Day
31	Sunday	9:00	Youth OWL Program
		9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		6:30	Environmental Justice Book Study

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
FEBRUARY			
2	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		5:30	Art & Spirituality Affinity Group
3	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Humanism Group
		5:00	Youth Music Night
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
4	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Men's Book Group - WUC
		1:30	Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
7	Sunday		First Sunday: Bring Food!
		9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		1:00	Youth OWL Program
9	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		4:00	Caring Committee
		6:00	Women's Circle
10	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		11:00	Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep
		5:00	Youth Music Night
		5:15	Membership Committee Meeting
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
11	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Writers' Group
13	Saturday	5:30	UUCM Auction Fundraiser
14	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		12:30	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water Presentation
16	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
		5:30	Art & Spirituality Affinity Group
17	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Faith Beyond Belief
		5:00	Youth Music Night
		5:00	Open Board Mtg: Membership Policy
		6:30	Board of Trustees Meeting
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
18	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Men's Book Group - WUC
		11:00	Social Justice Committee Mtg
		1:30	Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
19	Friday	4:00	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
20	Saturday	9:00	Building & Grounds Work Party
		12:30	Building & Grounds Meeting
21	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & New Member Welcome & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		1:00	Youth OWL Program
22	Monday	12:00	March/April Mt. Chalice Articles Due
		7:00	African Americans on S. Church St.
23	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
24	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		4:00	Finance Committee Meeting
25	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Writers' Group
28	Sunday	9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		1:00	Youth OWL Program

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
MARCH			
1	Tuesday	9:00	Meditation
		5:30	Art & Spirituality Affinity Group
2	Wednesday	8:30	Men's Group
		10:30	Humanism Group
		5:00	Youth Music Night
		6:30	Choir Rehearsal
3	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
		10:30	Men's Book Group - WUC
		1:30	Women's Spirituality Chalice Circle
6	Sunday		First Sunday: Bring Food!
		9:45	Sunday Service & RE Classes
		10:50	Drop-in Support Circle
		11:30	Sunday Service
		1:00	Youth OWL Program

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Street Address: 246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Sunday Services at 9:45 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

Telephone: 530-274-1675

Website: www.uugrassvalley.org

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

UUCM STAFF MEMBER

Reverend David Usher, Interim Minister
 Conrad Sisk, Office Administrator
 Jordan Thomas-Rose, Director of Music

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