

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

March 2018

UPCOMING SERVICES

Two Service Times on Sundays: 9:30 A.M. or 11:30 A.M.

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

Religious education classes for children (K-5th grades) are offered during the 9:30 A.M. service, and classes for youth (6th-12th grades) are offered at 10:30 A.M.

Nursery care is available for both services.

MARCH THEME: BALANCE

What does it mean to be a people of balance?

March 4 **MISSION: Possible! Stewardship Kickoff**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with the Stewardship Team
Bev Lyon, Worship Associate

We'll launch our exploration of balance and launch our annual Stewardship effort at the same time. Look for engaging music, inspiring interviews, a surprise or two, and a chance to consider your own giftedness and spiritual balance in the light of this Community's potential and its mission.

March 11 **Radical Hospitality: The Iowa Sisterhood and You**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa
Beth Karow, Worship Associate

TIME CHANGE! Spring Forward! (Rise one hour earlier.)

Come, celebrate and commit to radical hospitality in our midst, drawing inspiration from a group of Unitarian Women at the turn of the century who served at the edge of the western frontier and transformed, for a time, the nature of religious community.

12:45 **Soup Lunch to celebrate Conrad Sisk!**

Conrad, UUCM's extraordinary Office Administrator will gradually move out of the full admin position during the second half of March, en route to more study and work as a sound engineer. Come, celebrate and honor Conrad and all that he has brought to UUCM.

March 18 **A Balancing Life**
Rev. Beth Banks and Rev. Kevin Tarsa
Willow Digangi, Worship Associate

Rev. Beth Banks, Senior Minister of the UU Church of Davis, and Rev. Kevin will join forces to lead our worship services as a team, merging styles and combining the gifts of others on our staffs. Expect the unexpected as we draw on music, symbol, and story to explore our shared Soul Matters theme. (Reverends Banks and Tarsa will offer this service in Davis on the following Sunday.)

March 25 **Humanist Service**
Led by UUCM's Humanist Discussion Group

Join us for our annual Humanist Service. The theme for this service will be *Balance*, the theme of the month for March. In preparation for this service the topic for our monthly meeting on March 7th is *Balance* and our reading for that meeting is the "Soul Matters Worship Resources Packet, What does it mean to be a people of BALANCE?" (<http://www.uugrassvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/UUCM-SMC-Packet-03-March-2018.pdf>)

April 1 **Faithful Fools? Being UU in this Day and Age**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, et al.

Easter Sunday on April Fools' Day? (In the midst of Passover, no less.) Not as awkward a mash-up as one might at first expect. At least not if you know where – and to when – to go looking.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From Kevin

Once I finished sighing heavily at the thought of the theme of "balance" (which is not a statement about the theme itself, but rather a ready acknowledgment of my own struggles to find balance in my life), the next thought to arise was of the work of Deborah Tannen, the linguistics professor who in the late 1990s decried the argument culture into which the United States had descended.

I remembered her pointing out news reporters' belief that "the best way to cover news is to find spokespeople who express the most extreme, polarized views and present them as 'both sides.'" Reporters would interview gay rights advocates at a rally, for example, and then contact anti-gay extremist Fred Phelps or proponents of a gay conversion ministry to present the "other" side. Holocaust deniers or evolution deniers would be interviewed in order to offer "balanced" reporting.

Tannen wrote, "our determination to pursue truth by setting up a fight between two sides leads us to assume that every issue has two sides, no more, no less. But if you always assume there must be an 'other side,' you may end up scouring the margins of science or the fringes of lunacy to find it. . . Continual reference to 'the other side' results in a conviction that everything has another side—and people begin to doubt the existence of any facts at all."

Drawing on studies that were looking at the differences between the way women and men tend to communicate, Tannen suggested that we needed less debate and more dialogue. Less critique and more constructive engagement. Stop thinking in twos, she offered. "Instead of asking, 'What's the other side?' . . . ask, 'What are the other sides?'" Rather than inviting or comparing two perspectives, invite three. "Instead of insisting on hearing 'both sides,' insist on hearing 'all sides.'"

When two sides are offered in such a way as to imply they carry equal weight, then truth is imagined as residing exactly halfway between the two. But even in such binary framings, often the true balance point is closer to one side. Imagine those teeter-totter drawings that show a heavier weight on one side than the other, the fulcrum underneath placed much closer to the heavier weight in order to balance the beam on top.

Tannen invites incorporating yet other dimensions and using imagination that is even less linear. Not only is finding balance not necessarily a matter of finding the middle point, it's about learning to expand our awareness of all the weights that

warrant inclusion and then discerning the relative weightiness of each. Then we have the best chance of placing the fulcrum of truth where it belongs.

As I say often, this is the work and the great gift of religious community in this open-ended tradition. It requires that we each bring the truth we see to the table so that we can locate the fulcrum of Truth not exactly in the middle, but right where it belongs for real balance. Where it belongs for a moment anyway. Until the next piece of insight arrives – from you, perhaps - and we have to find the new balance point. Together.

– Rev. Kevin

Speaking of Balance...

By Rev. Kevin

Speaking of balance, the ministerial evaluation process surfaced that it may be helpful for you to know: The Letter of Agreement between the congregation and myself spells out that the Minister has one day per week free of all UUCM responsibilities, one day per week to devote solely to "study and writing," one Sunday per month free of Sunday service responsibilities, 4 weeks of study leave and 4 weeks of vacation annually. (Remember that single day off per week?)

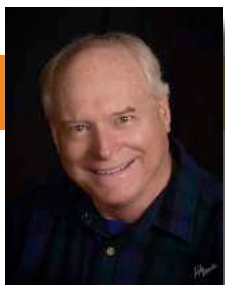
Many ministers take the bulk or all of their vacation time in the summer in order to recharge for the next congregation year. Last summer I took several weeks for a combination of vacation and study leave, but I am inclined in the future to spread vacation as well as study leave throughout the year. In particular, I intend to be present in the pulpit at least monthly in the summer.

UU's used to have a "summer off" mentality for the entire congregation, but that was a holdover from the days when our East coast ancestors all headed to the shores or cooler climes for the summer. Now we are year-round, as we should be. Service attendance stayed strong all last summer and I expect that we will stay with two services this summer. And I'll be learning how to create adequate breathing space throughout the year.

REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday: 10:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.,
Wednesday: 4 P.M. - 6 P.M. and Thursday: 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Other times by appointment.

Contact Rev. Kevin to schedule an appointment:
minister@uugrassvalley.org or (231) 883-1058



Board of Trustees

*Taylor Carey,
President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

We are entering upon the month of "balance," an equal distribution of weight, a state of equilibrium. People often lose their balance and tumble backwards, forwards, from side to side, or just plop straight down, limbs akimbo, desolate and unlovely. In our lives, in work, in hobbies, in the search for truth itself we seek balance. We do not want to be swept up or swept away by one passion to the exclusion of another. We want balance, equilibrium, peace.

Many in the news business seek balance in their reportage, a fair representation of both sides, for example, assuming – sometimes without evidence – that there are two sides, if not more to every story. They might be better served seeking the truth and reporting that.

The truth may have many facets, but it doesn't have another side. If something is true, it is true whether we like it or not, whether it serves our purposes or not, or whether it favors "our side" or not. There is no need to balance the truth with something else. As Mark Twain observed, "if you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything." The truth exists in its own state of equilibrium without any help from us. It can be distorted, repudiated, and ignored, but it can't be balanced. And that's the truth.

It can also be very slippery and hard to discern. As Mason

Williams noted in one of his songs many years ago, "who needs truth, if it's dull?" But slippery or not, dull or not, the "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" is central to our beliefs. We are obsessed with the acquisition of knowledge as a pathway to discerning the truth of something. I suspect that if truth were incarnate it would be shabbily dressed, generally messy and unkempt like some unhygienic thing you wouldn't want in your house. It would be rude, self-absorbed, and fractious because it's not trying to sell you anything. Beware the slick peddler of sweet tales.

Currently, our nation and our world are obsessed with learning and understanding the truth about our President and the role,

if any, played by the Russian government in unbalancing the 2016 presidential election. Our questing souls absorb news like sponges, weighing and evaluating information, searching for clues to distinguish fact from fraud.

Our media resources, challenged by a sea of detractors railing against phantasmagoric fake news, serve us relatively poorly by trying to rid themselves of the scourge of bias by injecting faux balance into their stories. But as we know, the truth can't be balanced by falsehood.

In other not fake news, I am happy to report that Joel Houtman has graciously accepted our ~~plea~~ offer to Chair the Endowment Committee. And as I write this there is a lot of snow on the ground here on Banner Mountain - Yay!!

- Taylor

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

Taylor Carey	<i>President</i>
Lindsay Duncel	<i>Vice-President</i>
Charlie Zimmerman	<i>Treasurer</i>
Sandi Lauher	<i>Secretary</i>

Members at Large:

George Dunstan, Beth Freedman, Chuck Champlin

**Board of Trustees meetings are *NOW* held:
the third Thursday of each month at 5:15 p.m.**

*in the UUCM Channing Room.
UUCM members and friends are cordially invited to attend!
If you wish to address the board, please give two days notice
so the agenda timing can be adjusted.*



Nominating Committee



*Kathryn Young, Chair,
Nominating Committee*

UUCM Nominating Committee is Looking for a Few Good Members

Each year, the UUCM Nominating Committee is charged with the task of finding candidates to fill all available board of trustee positions, as well as candidates for next year's Nominating Committee. This will be an exciting time as we get close to our new governance model, and this team will be helping to figure out how the new model will work, and what "tweaks" will be needed to make it work in UUCM's unique situation.

Following are brief job descriptions for the positions we are trying to fill for 2018-19:

Vice President of the Board of Trustees

This person is an officer of the Board of Trustees, and a voting member. S/he works closely with the President and other Board members in support of the mission, values and goals of the congregation. In the absence of the President, the Vice President will serve in his/her stead. We are looking for someone with previous board experience, a strategic thinker, good oral and written communications skills, ability to work with others and ability to work with MS Word and Excel. It also helps to have familiarity with the UUCM Bylaws. This is a one year term, with one consecutive re-election permitted.

Secretary

This person is an officer of the Board of Trustees, and a voting member. S/he works closely with other Board members in support of the mission, values and goals of the congregation. The primary responsibilities of the Secretary are to maintain official records, to handle BOT correspondence, keep a record of voting members, and to maintain UUCM Policies and BOT procedures. This is a one year position, with one consecutive re-election allowed.

Treasurer

This person is an officer of the Board of Trustees, and a voting member. S/he works closely with other Board members in support of the mission, values and goals of the congregation. The Treasurer is responsible for the financial operations of

UUCM. Key responsibilities would include supervision of the paid bookkeeper, cash deposits and disbursements, budgeting, financial reporting, regulatory requirements for payroll and taxes, financial controls and procedures. It also helps to have familiarity with the UUCM Bylaws. This is a two-year position, with one consecutive re-election allowed.

Trustee at Large

We are looking for two new Trustees at Large. They are voting members, working closely with other Board members in support of the mission, values and goals of the congregation. Trustees at Large will become familiar with the overall organizational operations of UUCM, along with the functions and duties. Each Trustee will participate with other UUCM committees and/or Task Forces as mutually agreed upon. This is a two year term, with one consecutive re-election permitted.

Nominating Committee

In addition to Board Members, the Nominating Committee needs to replace itself each year. The Nom Com needs one chair person, two members and one alternate, in case someone else can't fulfill their term.

It helps if Nominating Committee members are outgoing and friendly, and comfortable talking with people they don't know well. The duties of the Nominating Committee start slowly in the fall, and then, during the winter and spring months, increase in intensity as we get closer to the election time which is normally in May at the Annual Meeting. We search for interested members, ask people to serve, let them know the expectations of the job, and inform the congregation of the line up so they can get to know the candidates.

We already have a few people who have expressed interest in serving, but we still need more. If you are an active member who is ready to step up and take on a little more responsibility, or if you know someone you think would be a perfect fit for one of the jobs, please speak to Kathryn Young, Melissa Ridgway, Robin Hart or Dave MacLeod with your ideas, questions or suggestions, or send an email to Kathryneyounguu@gmail.com.

UUCM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

Kathryn Young

Robin Hart and Melissa Ridgway

Dave MacLeod

Chair

Members

Alternate

Stewardship Committee

Mission: Possible Kick Off!

By Keith Johnson, Stewardship Committee Chair

The stewardship campaign is upon us. As a final reminder, here are the key dates:

- **March 4 Kickoff Sunday:**
Come enjoy the service, meet your visiting stewards, and enjoy the refreshments provided by the Stewardship committee.
- **March Receptions –**
Watch for your invitation to a specific event. Please attend your reception and communicate your views about the future of UUCM.
- **April 7 Congregational Dinner** – All are invited. Savor the good food and a dynamic program with your beloved community.

Here are a few gentle suggestions:

- **Be kind to your visiting steward.**
Fourteen of your fellow congregants have agreed to meet face-to-face with four or five members (or couples). Please be courteous and treat your visiting steward with respect. If you have not been contacted by a visiting steward and you would like a visit, please notify Keith Johnson or Bob Miller and a visiting steward will be assigned to you.

- **Please RSVP for the congregational dinner.**
You will receive a written invitation to the dinner in mid-March. A prompt reply will be greatly appreciated in order to assure sufficient food and drink.

- **Turn in your pledge card.**
You will receive your pledge card at the congregational dinner on April 7th. Please, oh please, return the card that evening or the following day. Without your card we will be unable to submit projected income figures to the Finance committee. If you are unable to attend the congregational dinner, please notify Keith or Bob so a pledge card can be mailed to you.

- **Be generous.**
Remember our theme this year is Mission: Possible. The mission of the Stewardship committee is to build a congregation of generous people. Only you can make that happen.

If you have any questions about the Stewardship campaign, please contact any member of the Stewardship committee.

Members are:
Keith Johnson, Bob Miller, Bob Packard, Maryann Currington, Lesley Champlin, and Lindsay Dunckel.




Our time for generosity!

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES:

PLEDGE KICKOFF: March 4
DONOR RECEPTIONS: March 9, 16 & 25
(Please see your invitation for your specific date)
CONGREGATIONAL DINNER: April 7

"For it is in giving that we receive."
–St. Francis of Assisi

Thank you for all you do for UUCM.
– Your Stewardship Committee



"Nothing is impossible to a willing heart."
– John Heywood

Membership Committee

Learn more about UUism, UUCM and You!

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Minister

The New UU series, our "introductory" sessions for those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, about UUCM and/or about becoming a member, are a rich chance to get to know others as well as to learn and reflect. They are helpful opportunities for and open to long time members, and important introductions for new and curious folks.

These classes, led by Rev. Kevin, are an interesting and fun way to learn what Unitarian Universalism is all about and are highly recommended for anyone considering membership at UUCM. This spring we'll hold the main series during the daytime: mostly Tuesdays early afternoons, with a Saturday morning session at the end.

TUESDAYS, 1:00-2:30 P.M. AT UUCM:

March 6 - How We Grow in Faith:
Philosophy of Religious Education

March 20 - Social Justice Philosophy and Practice

April 3 - How Are Decisions Made? Governance and Policy

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. - *Welcome to UUCM! and What does it Mean to be a Member?*

This half day class explores the joys, responsibilities, and processes of becoming a Member at UUCM. Participation in this class is one of the requirements for membership. However, formally becoming a member is not a requirement of taking the class. Because the event includes a light lunch, an RSVP is required. Please talk to Claire Miller, (truckeeclaire@yahoo.com) Chair of Membership, with any questions about any of these classes. She will be happy to help you sift through your thoughts and feelings surrounding membership, and deciding whether the time is right for you.

Hospitality Snack Teams

By Marilyn Young, Coordinator, UUCM Hospitality Hour

Every Sunday we enjoy snacks and refreshments along with socializing, between the two services - 10:30 until 11:20 a.m.

This month's schedule for contributing snacks:

March 4 - last names beginning with A to E

March 11 - last names beginning with F to J

March 18 - last names beginning with J to R

March 25 - last names beginning with S to Z

If you plan to bring a snack, please contact Marilyn Young (marilyny04@gmail.com).

Committee on Ministry

Committee on Ministry News

By Kate Canan, Member, Committee on Ministry

With the Rev. Kevin Tarsa's evaluation for Final Fellowship sent off to the proper UUA committee, the Committee on Ministry is turning its attention to evaluating communication. We plan to look at the effectiveness of communication among members, between members and leadership, and between the congregation and our larger community and denomination. The purpose of our communications assessment is as follows:

- To provide to the Board a written evaluation of UUCM's current communication systems regarding effectiveness, timeliness, and quality of information;
- To provide a written recommendation on possible enhancements or changes in our communication channels and how they are used;
- To have a well-informed congregation.

We'll evaluate the many channels we have for communication at present—online, in print, and face to face. We'll ask you in a brief survey and in focus groups whether you feel you are obtaining the information you need in a timely manner, and if you are able to effectively communicate your announcements and needs to other members and leadership. You are always welcome to contact any member of the Committee on Ministry:

Janet Dunstan, janetldunstan@gmail.com
Kathryn Canan, kathryn.canan@gmail.com
Gwen Eymann, eymann@sbcglobal.net

Second Sunday Soup



Celebrate and Honor Conrad Sisk

SUNDAY, MARCH 11 AT 12:45 P.M.

Conrad, UUCM's extraordinary Office Administrator will gradually move out of the full admin position during the second half of March, en route to more study and work as a sound engineer.

Come, celebrate and honor Conrad and all that he has brought to UUCM at our Soup Lunch!

If you can contribute soup, bread or cookies to the Second Sunday Soup Lunch, please contact Marilyn Young (marilyny04@gmail.com).

Caring Committee

Opportunities to Show Love and Caring in March

By Anne Lyon, Chair, Caring Committee

Caring Committee welcomes March, and joins all of our local communities in hoping for rain. Cold temperatures have followed warm, sunny days, keeping us indoors more often than not!

Some of us are going through rough patches, while others of us are enjoying a respite from Life's inevitable downs. Caring Committee sends love and offers of help to those people in need. Many generous people have signed up to offer rides, do errands, prepare meals, give company and a confidential ear.

We celebrate the much anticipated arrival of **Stu and Mags'** beautiful **Ixchel!** Many kind folk are preparing meals to relieve the family of that chore while they adjust to the new schedule.

May Lawrence is at Springhill Nursing Center, healing from a recent fall. She's looking forward to cards and brief phone calls. Please call her before visiting in person. Her smiles and strong intentions directed toward healing bring us all inspiration and admiration.

As of this writing, **Sunny Holmes** is at Crystal Ridge Care Center, 396 Dorsey Dr., and in the hospice program. Care Team Chair Anne Lyon has been offering Sunny beautiful presence and assistance. Sunny has been glad to have around her people who love and care about her. She is now fast approaching the end of this life. If you are wanting to visit Sunny, Anne Lyon can help you know what is happening. Please call or text Anne at (619)-933-1618.

Donna Foddrell is healing nicely from her recent shoulder surgery. She anticipates a good recovery, and is actively involved in UU activities.

Building and Grounds

Spring is in the Air

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building and Grounds

The one thing I love about the UU's is it is full of great people. The work day in February was a great success. We had four new people volunteering to help us keep the building and grounds in good shape. After missing January, we had a lot to accomplish. I want to give a special welcome to our new volunteers: they were Jim Wiens, Bridget Brackley, Bonnie Lattin-Hensel and Rob Bietz. They were accompanied by many of our seasoned people which includes: René, Theresa, Joel, Kern, Doug, Keith and Gwen. We accomplished a lot, but still have many hours of yard work ahead of us in the coming months.

As many of you know our roof over the Alcott room has been repaired. The sad thing is that it has not been really tested, but hopefully, that will happen before the rainy season (?) is over. It cost more than originally estimated, because all the wood support under the old roofing was rotted and needed to be replaced.

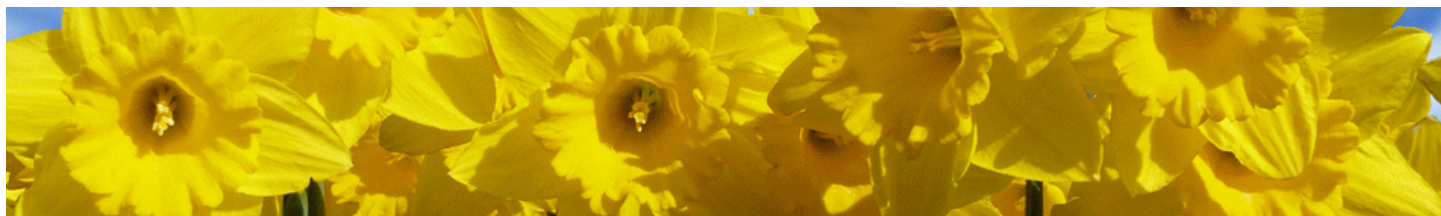
Everyone who has been to a service has seen our new colors for the sanctuary. This project will be done in parts; the next area to be painted will be the front peaked wall. After that is done, we will move to the side walls and then to the front area. It is at this time, we will be calling for help with preparation, painting and cleanup. If you can paint or help, please give us your support. It will be greatly appreciated.

There will be many days when help will be necessary.

Lastly, as always, we can use new volunteers. This is a great place to dip your toe into helping at UUCM. We had four new helpers this month and I personally would like to see that list grow. It is such a wonderful way to meet new people in our UU community.



One example of the Sanctuary painting project: The back wall was painted a lovely soft green, which beautifully sets off our Memorial Tree.



Mission Renewal Team



Congratulations! We DID IT!

Dear Beloved Community,

On Sunday, February 4th, we had 69 members vote unanimously (including 27 proxies) for UUCM's Mission Covenant statement below.

*With courageous love and a sense of wonder,
we cultivate our spiritual, emotional, and
intellectual strength
to create a world more compassionate,
sustainable, and just.*

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation for the courageous and inspired writing from our Mission Refining team: Lesley Champlin, Gail Johnson Vaughan, Susan Merrill, and Tom Wernigg. Thank you!!!

The Board set the renewal of UUCM's Mission Statement as a priority following the Congregational Start Up Workshop in October 2016. The Mission Renewal Process Team was formed in February 2017 and our mission was "to create and facilitate a process by which the congregation discerns and articulates its renewed mission statement". Our mission is complete! We thoroughly enjoyed our time as a team and doing such inspiring work with all of you.

Before we go, we are working on recommending next steps to implement the new Mission Statement and allow it to fully emerge within our congregation. For now, we might call this the "Mission Emergence Phase". This would include using it both internally and externally, integrating it into our shared Ministries (i.e. Worship, Religious Education, Stewardship, Social Justice) and building the Congregation's Mission Muscle



(memorize it, develop it and live it at UUCM).

We hope that some of you may be inspired to volunteer to support this next phase! Our team heartily recommends the many benefits that this service brings. Please let us know if you are interested.

Sincere thanks for all of you who engaged with us in this process and voted!

With Courageous Love and so much gratitude,

Your Mission Renewal Process Team:

Beth Freedman,

Jim Perkins,

Rev. Kevin Tarsa

& René Wiley



Mission Renewal Team and Mission Refining Team is all smiles as they celebrate our new mission statement! From left: René Wiley, Beth Freedman, Tom Wernigg, Susan Merrill, Jim Perkins, Gail Johnson Vaughan, Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Lesley Champlin

Social Justice News and Activities

Volunteer Opportunities:

By Keith Johnson, Member, Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee encourages all members and friends to volunteer for justice work with local non-profit organizations. UUCM'ers are already doing outstanding work for the following groups. Please read the brief description of the group and the volunteer help that is needed, and if you are moved to do so please contact the UUCM contact person to volunteer. The contact person will have further information about the organization and may suggest other volunteer opportunities. If you would like to recommend other service organizations to be included, or if you wish to join us on the Social Justice Committee, please contact committee chair Stu Matthews (530-362-8456).

ANIMAL PLACE, SAMMIE'S FRIENDS SHELTER, GRASS VALLEY SHELTER

Animal Place cares for rescued farm animals. Sammie's Friends and the Grass Valley Animal Control Shelter care for rescued pets. All three of these organizations need help feeding, cleaning, walking, and socializing with animals.

Sammie's Friends' contract with Nevada County expires on June 30, 2018. They must submit a new proposal to renew the contract. Sammie's has done a great job of running the shelter. They have a great foster program, adoptions are up, they help with medical needs and food for pets whose caretakers are in need. **If you would like Sammie's to continue to run the shelter please submit a comment to Board of Supervisors at clerkofboard@co.nevada.ca.us and CEO of county Rick Haffey at ceo@co.nevada.ca.us.**

Contact Carol Hyndman (530-477-0693).

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

UUCM makes lunches for Habitat workers on the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the church. Contact Keith Johnson (530-265-0277).

HOSPITALITY HOUSE

Hospitality House manages and operates Utah's Place, the local homeless shelter. Hospitality House needs help in three program areas:

UUCM purchases, prepares, and serves dinner to our guests at Utah's Place on the third and fifth Fridays of every month. Contact Wally Holtan (530-559-0050).

Hospitality House manages the Bread and Roses Thrift Store and help is needed in all aspects of store operation. Contact Cassandra Holdeman (530-575-4428).

Utah's Place needs volunteer monitors. Contact George Dunstan (530-205-8159).

IFM

Interfaith Food Ministry provides food at least two times per week to those in need. **IFM is very much in need of volunteers. If you are looking for a way to serve in the wider community, consider this opportunity.** Current needs include drivers and packers. Contact Anne Lyon (619-933-1618).

SIERRA ROOTS

Sierra Roots is a local homeless advocacy group which requests assistance in operating a cold weather shelter and their one-on-one advocacy program. Contact Keith Johnson (530-265-0277).

SYRCL

The South Yuba River Citizen's League is dedicated to preserving and protecting the South Yuba River. Volunteer opportunities include river monitoring, becoming a river ambassador, and clerical support.

First Sunday Food Donations: for Interfaith Food Ministry and for the Nevada County Pets of the Homeless

By Carol Hyndman, Member, Social Justice Committee

Please remember that on the first Sunday of each month we collect food donations for Nevada County Pets of the Homeless, as well as for Interfaith Food Ministry.

Interfaith Food Ministry served 7793 individuals last year, including 2003 children. Beyond feeding the hungry, they seek to reduce food insecurity in Nevada County.

Nevada County Pets of the Homeless provides food and services for our homeless and their pets. Please contact Carol Hyndman (countrycattery@gmail.com) with any questions about NCPH.



Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Women's Circle in February - Game Night

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 6 P.M.

Clarita will lead us in some fun games... great way to get to know each other better and have fun, too.

We'll start with a potluck. Please RSVP to Kathryn if you are coming, and what dish you'll be bringing: kathryneyounguu@gmail.com

All UUCM women are invited to any Women's Circle gathering. If you are not on the Women's Group email list and wish to be, please contact Kathryn Young, or send an email to our office administrator at: admin@uugrassvalley.org and you will be added to the list.

Meditation Group

Tuesday mornings at 9, a self-directed group of congregants meets for an hour of meditation in the Sanctuary. Enjoy a time of inner peace and reflection with others. For more info: Shelley North Gerson, 272-8930, shelley10493@gmail.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.

Recovering Spirit

(FORMERLY CALLED

"SPEED BUMPS OF LIFE")

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 A.M.,

ANTHONY ROOM ANNEX

Like all addictions, _____ (Fill in the blank) kills the spirit.

There's a reason the Indigenous Elders of long ago referred to alcohol as, 'Spirits.'

Individual addictions often cover a wide range of behaviors that far exceed the use of drugs and/or alcohol. Not only is an addiction capable of depriving individuals of spiritual growth; just as often it breaks individual spirit as well.

This is not a Twelve Step program, nor is the goal to fix or offer counseling, but a quiet gathering for honest sharing and gentle fellowship. No matter what stage of recovery

you find yourself, please feel welcome to come together in a confidential setting where we safely explore the many challenges of addictive behavior that distract from the sense of the spiritual.

For additional Information: Carmen Riley (530-272-2803)
Scottie Hart (530-388-8612)



Drop-In Support Circle

SUNDAYS FROM 10:50 UNTIL
11:25 A.M.

IN THE ANTHONY ROOM
ANNEX

We have found our new designated space in the "library annex" to be cozy and intimate. Please join us if you would like a safe, confidential place to share your feelings about life's challenges and give support to others.

The group meets every Sunday, 10:50-11:25.

Circle Facilitators: (rotating) Janet Bullock (530-477-8760, janetbullock41@gmail.com), Corrie Silva, Tom Wernigg, and Penelope Williams.

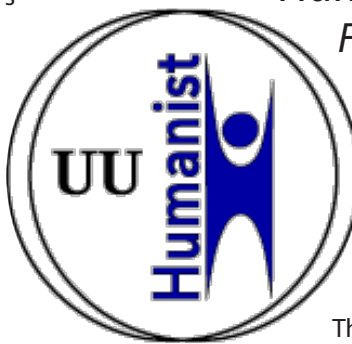
Humanism Discussion Group

FIRST WEDNESDAYS FROM

10:30 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

IN THE CHANNING ROOM

By George Dunstan



Join us for our annual Humanist Service, Sunday March 25th at UUCM at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The theme for this service will be Balance, the theme of the month for March. In preparation for this service the topic for our monthly meeting on March 7th is Balance and our reading for that meeting is the "Soul Matters Worship Resources Packet: What does it mean to be a people of BALANCE?"

- Click this link to read beforehand, or contact the office to get a printed copy. <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/UUCM-SMC-Packet-03-March-2018.pdf>

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. until noon at UUCM in the Channing Room. Hope to see you at our discussion. For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan (530-477-7635 or gvgeode@gmail.com).

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Register Now for Regional Assembly!

APRIL 27-29, 2018, AT THE
DOUBLE TREE HOTEL IN PORTLAND, OREGON

Plan to join attendees from 185 PWR congregations as the four districts of the Pacific Western Region convene in Portland, Oregon, April 27-29, for the 2018 Regional Assembly. Three dynamic speakers will address the theme, *Stories of Hope, Courage, Resistance, and Resilience*. The Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister at the First Unitarian Society of San Francisco, will preach on Sunday morning. (Rev. William Barber has had to change his plans.) Saturday's keynote speaker will be Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, the first Indian-American woman to be elected to U.S. Congress. Jayapal has spent the last twenty years working internationally and domestically as a leading advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights. The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA president, will speak at Friday evening's opening ceremony. Frederick-Gray will share her emerging vision for the future of the UUA and the wider movement.

Several workshops will be offered during Saturday's programming. If you prefer, you may opt to participate in a local social justice activity. Look for details and register on the Pacific Western Region website: (www.uua.org/pwr).

Women & Religion Women's Retreat

MARCH 8-11, 2018, AT THE
ANUBHUTI CENTER, NOVATO, CA

All self-identified women are welcome to join us for a calming respite from our busy lives. Our retreat offers something for everyone: delicious meals; workshops for mind, body, and spirit; conversations with new and old friends; time for quiet contemplation; and a boutique, silent auction, and book swap. To learn more about Women and Religion and our retreat, visit our website at <http://womenandreligionpcd.org>. This year registration will be by MAIL ONLY, so you will need to print out the registration form, complete it and mail it in with your check to the address on the form. Invite a friend!

Regional Mission Trip for Youth and Adults!

Regional Mission Trip for Youth & Adults Next Summer

- Do you have a passion for environmental justice?
- Have you been interested to partner with grassroots organizations to create a lasting partnership in solidarity with local communities?
- Have you ever wanted to make a real difference while learning hands on skills and concepts?



All meals, lodging at the church, local transportation. (Air and ground Transportation to the Throop Church is not included.) Staff: Eric Bliss, PWR Youth Specialist; Rev. Jaelynn Scott, Buddhist minister; and U.U. Religious Educator, Katie Covey, PWR Mission Trip Lead.

Scholarships are available: Click this link for information: <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/youth-ministries/youth-program-scholarship-fund>!

The Pacific Western Region Mission Trip provides an opportunity to practice environmental sustainability in the

Pacific Western Region Justice Journey: Roots, Reflections and Relationships - An Environmental Justice Journey. A week long immersion experience focusing on Environmental Sustainability through service, learning, and through a meditation practice designed to be reflective and to sustain future justice work.

Logistics: Saturday night, July 14 - Sunday afternoon, July 22 at Throop Unitarian Universalist Church, 300 South Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

You are invited! 25 multigenerational participants - youth (rising 9th - rising 12th graders), YA's and adults. Families with youth, YA's and adults welcome. Cost is \$550.00 per person for 8 days.

unique permaculture urban garden at Throop, as well as a variety of community projects and events. In addition, the group will engage in centering meditative UU and Buddhist practices as developed by Rev. Jaelynn Scott's Mutuality Movement as a way to build a lifelong foundation for justice work and compassionate understanding. Registration: <https://register.pwruua.org/event-registrations/pwr-mission-trip/> Contact: Katie Covey, PWR Mission Trip Lead at katiecovey@gmail.com.

In faith and in the spirit of love,
Eric Bliss, Youth Ministry Specialist, Congregational Life Staff
303-903-3144 [MST timezone] or ebless@uua.org



Butterfly Montgomery
Religious Education
Coordinator

Full Community Education

BUTTERFLY'S BEEsNESS HOURS



We leave our theme of Perseverance and move into the theme of **BALANCE**. It takes a good amount of balance to make it through the craziness of our current state in our country! There are many people who are angry, and do not seem to have the tools to be able to deal with their frustration. I can only imagine what it feels like for our children. This past week we had a very scary experience as a nation, from dealing with the panic, and upset from yet another mentally unstable person, who threatened the lives of children, during the high school shooting in Parkland, FL, due to gun violence.

It felt very close to home for me, as I had a friend from childhood, who had a daughter at the school. Fortunately, she was found safe, and sound. We have an epidemic of people with mental illnesses all across the country, who are desperately crying out for help, because of their lack of balance. We must talk to our children, and develop deeper connections to their emotions, so we can be able to detect the warning signs far in advance, and assist them to find treatment. We can do better, if we all take time to check in on one another, from one human being to another, to serve as a citizen of kindness, and compassion for peace on our planet.

May we all find some compassion for those who are in deep pain, and in need of balance.

Blessings,

Butterfly
education@uugrassvalley.org

What does it mean to be a people of **Balance**?

In Religious Education sessions this month, our children will approach balance from several angles:

BALANCE, AND JUSTICE

First, we explore being a people of balance through the lens of justice making.

BALANCE IN MATH, AND SCIENCE

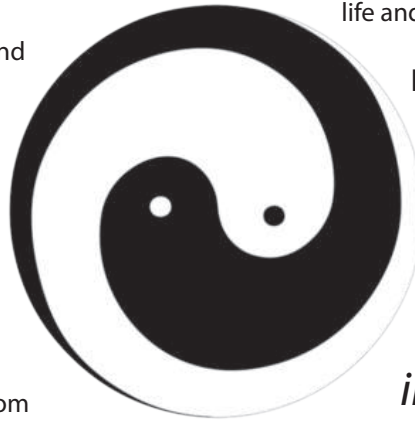
Second, we offer an approach to balance through the lens of science and math.

BALANCE OF SEASONS

The third lens is that of nature cycles, with session three centering around the Spring equinox, when day and night are balanced.

BALANCE OF LIFE, AND DEATH

The final session engages the balance through the lens of life and death, beginnings, and endings.



FAMILY AND PARENT RESOURCES FOR EXPLORING THE MARCH THEME OF BALANCE.

Click this link:

<http://www.uugrassvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018-03-Soul-Matters-Family-and-Parent-Resources-Balance.pdf>

Upcoming Activities in RE:

CLASS TIME CHANGE FOR YOUTH GROUP

Our youth group (6th through 12th graders) now meets one hour later at 10:30 a.m.

ART MURAL PROJECT

UUCM Youth with Robin Hart and Youth Group Facilitators will be creating a mural upstairs in their classroom space.

YOUTH MUSIC - MOST WEDNESDAYS

Beginners 4:30, Advanced at 5:00

A great chance to learn and to have fun making music.

Contact Jordan Thomas-Rose for more information:

music@uugrassvalley.com

VISIT FROM RENO AREA UU YOUTH GROUP

The UUCM youth are planning to host a group of UU Reno Youth along with Kristin Famula... possibly on March 25th. Plans are still in the making.

RE VISIONING TEAM MEETING

The RE Visioning Team's next meeting is the third Sunday of the Month, on March 18th at 12:45 p.m.

RE CURRICULUM PLANNING SESSION

March 4 at 10:45 a.m.

Full Community Education, Continued

Job Opportunity:

SEEKING A CHILDCARE COORDINATOR

CHILD CARE COORDINATOR JOB SUMMARY:

We are looking for a committed child care provider to care for and play with our youngest children during our Sunday services. UUCM will provide activities, games and simple lesson plans. The ideal candidate will be babysitter/CPR certified, well organized, dependable, and have a reliable mode of transportation.

This position begins immediately.

Hours: Estimated 3.5 hours per Sunday (9:15 am-12:45 pm) plus monthly planning meetings (approximately 1 hour), and various after-service meetings or special events, as available.

Pay: The childcare coordinator will be paid \$13.25 per hour.

The Child Care Coordinator is supervised by the Religious Education Coordinator. Please email letters of interest and resumés to employment@uugrassvalley.org.



Multi-colored chalices made by Elementary RE Students in a recent class.

Volunteers Needed for R.E.!!

We are welcoming new Teachers and volunteers into the RE program to work with our children and youth, and are seeking volunteer commitments from January - March of 2018.

Serve as a Lead Teacher, Co-Teacher, Storyteller, Guest Teacher, RE Liaison or Childcare assistant. We also welcome

parents to help provide books, supply materials for arts and crafts, and to provide support for possible 2018 field trips to connect with youth from nearby UU congregations in Reno and Auburn.

(Note: All volunteers who work with our children and youth are required to undergo a background check for the safety of our young people.) Contact Butterfly at (530) 274-1675 or at education@uugrassvalley.org to serve and to seek answers to your teaching questions.



6th to 12th Graders:

You are invited to come to the

UUCM YOUTH BRUNCH BUNCH

WHEN: Second Sunday of each month

WHERE: Meet in the UUCM Entry at our **NEW TIME: 10:25 a.m.**

WHAT: Walk to a Grass Valley restaurant for breakfast with other youth!

COST*: Depends on what you order!

WHY?:

- Get to know other UU youth
- Have **authentic** conversations about things that matter
- Explore monthly themes such as: *Hope, Intention, Perseverance*

...and have FUN!

* Financial assistance available... please talk to Butterfly or Rev. Kevin

Adult Religious Education

Food for Thought and Reflection from Soul Matters

What does it mean to be a people of balance?

When we talk of balance, it's natural for calm and rest to be the first things that come to mind. There's no getting around it: many of us are tired. We're overworked, over-busy, overcommitted. Striving and stress have become the badges we wear to prove that we are of worth. We are often so weighed down by responsibility and worry that it only takes one drop of something unexpected to tip us over. So, yes, we long for rest. Yes, we want less to manage and juggle. Yes, we need balance's reminder that a place of calm and peace is possible.

And yet, pointing us to peace and calm is not all that balance is about. Remembering this is at the center of this month's work. Indeed, there is no better month than March to help us embrace balance's many meanings.

For instance, take the religious holidays in March.

Lent reminds us that balance is a place of reassessment, renewal, preparation, and even repentance. It honors the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert preparing for his ministry. The balance he sought in the desert was not that of restful escape, but that of restorative re-centering. Balance got him ready, rather than simply offering him relief.

Passover also puts its own spin on balance. It is a time to retell the story of the exodus of the Jews from Egypt after centuries of slavery. For it, balance is a matter of remembering, of pausing to put yourself back into a story that connects you with others and anchors you in a counter-cultural narrative. During Passover, the balance one finds is not that of calm but that of reconnection.

There's also Ostara, the Pagan celebration of the Vernal Equinox. It honors the balance of day and night, but more importantly it celebrates the way this balance is a tipping point on the way to Spring. It's a reminder that stillpoints are

rarely still. They are a place of turning, a space where shifts happen and new life emerges.

And finally, the Hindu holiday of Holi also needs holding up, with its ritual of restoring one's belief in the power of good over evil. It's a reminder that balance and calm isn't just found by taking a break from life, but by trusting in its goodness once again.

March is also the month in which we honor many people who gave their lives to the cause of justice. The list is large and includes James Reeb, Viola Liuzzo, Susan B. Anthony, and Archbishop Oscar Romero.

These anniversaries remind us that being a "people of balance" is often the opposite of keeping things calm. In order to move toward a balance of justice, we have to upset the current state of things. Oppressive systems need to be challenged and toppled. We need to sacrifice our calm and comfort, and instead "go all in." Achieving a balance of equality requires us to be purposefully off-balance with our culture, or as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, we need people who are "maladjusted." Being out of sync with "the way things are" is the first step toward a better balance for all.

Add all this up and suddenly "balance" takes on a new meaning. Actually, it takes on many new meanings. The observances of March remind us that balance is not simply a destination, but also a place of invitation. It's not a static space of peace, as much as a stillpoint on which we pivot and turn to something new.

Which kind of balance will help your own turning?

Soul Matters Themes for 2018

What does it mean to be a people of...

March:	Balance
April:	Emergence
May:	Creativity
June:	Blessing



Adult Religious Education Opportunities

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE WHITE?

DEVELOPING WHITE RACIAL LITERACY

4-5:30 P.M. TUESDAYS, MARCH 13, 20, 27 AND
APRIL 10, 17, 24; IN THE CHANNING ROOM

With Corrie Silva and Rev. Kevin, this peer-based learning group (or groups) will explore the teachings of Robin DiAngelo through reading and study of her book, *What Does it Mean to be White?: Developing White Racial Literacy*. DiAngelo examines what it means to be white in a society that proclaims race meaningless, yet is deeply divided by race. Her concept of white fragility has influenced the national discourse on race.

This is a chance to do more of the internal racial work required to see and challenge racism effectively and to engage across racial divides more fully. Interested participants are asked to locate a copy of the book and to read the scheduled chapters for each session. Session one will cover chapters 1-3.

AHOY MATES...ALL HANDS ON DECK!

FRIDAY, MARCH 23 – POTLUCK MEAL @ 5:30 P.M.,
PRESENTATION @ 6:30-8:30 P.M. – ALL AGES WELCOME!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to spend 21 days crossing the Pacific Ocean in a 45' sailboat with your spouse, never seeing land or another boat? Join Bob and Karyn Packard for an evening of adventure as they share their journey from Mexico, through the South Pacific and New Caledonia, and on to the north island of New Zealand. Find out what it was really like to navigate, problem-solve, cook, wash clothes, get a haircut, interface with native people, etc. See these lush islands and meet their gracious inhabitants. You will get the inside scoop on this portion of their 2½ year journey aboard their Norseman 447 "Realtime."

SIMPLY PRAY

MARCH / APRIL, DATES AND TIMES TO BE DETERMINED

The practice of prayer appeals to something deep within many of us, especially those of us who grew up reciting Catholic prayers on a rosary, or those of us fascinated by the mala beads carried by Buddhist practitioners. But what if our journey has taken a path different from the traditional religions and the often moving rituals they provide? How, and why, should we pray?

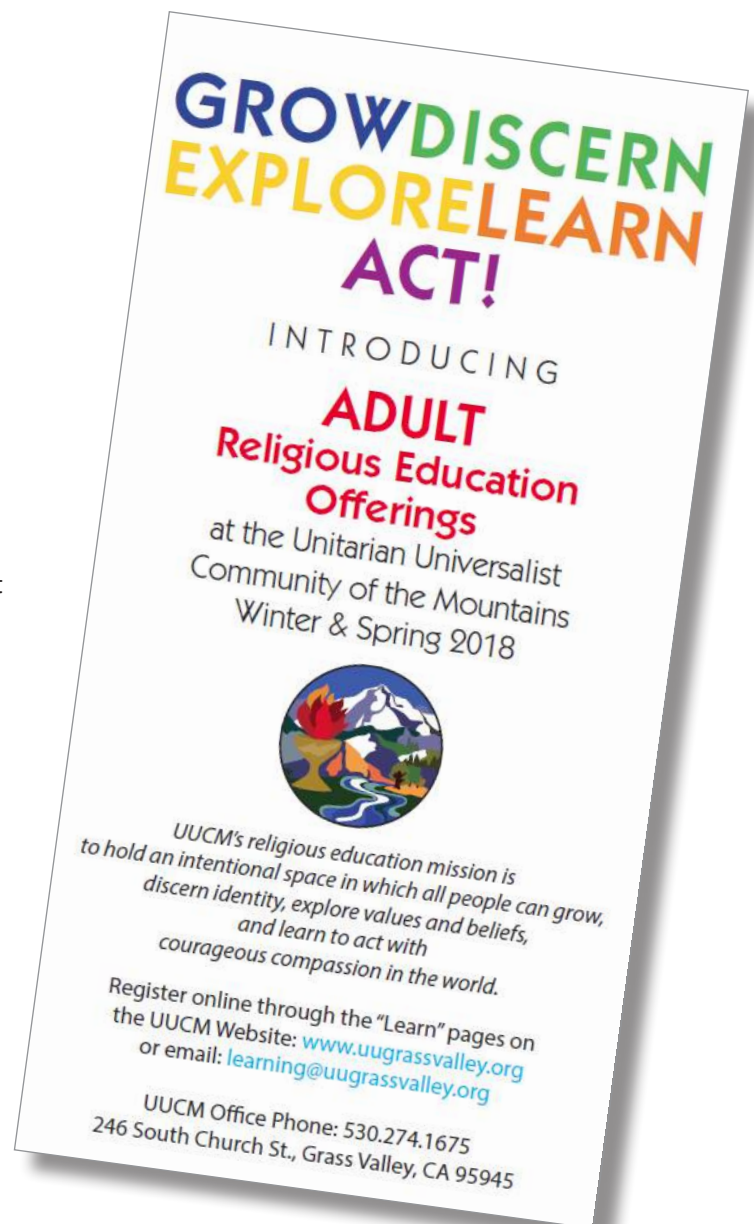
In the book, *Simply Pray*, Erik Walker Wikstrom explores the universal qualities of prayer and offers a way to incorporate this spiritual practice into your personal journey. He even suggests a new, contemporary prayer bead practice.

With the book as our guide and the Revs. Karyn Packard and Kevin Tarsa facilitating, come, explore the nature and possibility for prayer in your life.

ADULT RE OFFERINGS

Exciting Adult RE offerings for Winter and Spring are listed in a new catalog:
<http://www.uugrassvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2018-01-Adult-RE-Brochure.pdf>

For more information, please email:
learning@uugrassvalley.org



March 2018 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

MARCH 2018

1	Thursday	8:30 4:00 7:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Finance Committee Meeting Singing Meditation Circle
4	Sunday	First Sunday - Bring Food for Pets & People 9:30 10:40 10:50 11:30 12:30	Full Community Sunday Service Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Full Community Sunday Service Stewardship Kickoff Sunday
5	Monday	11:00	Nominating Committee Meeting
6	Tuesday	9:00 1:00 4:00	Meditation The New UU – How We Grow in Faith Caring Committee Meeting
7	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 12:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Committee on Ministry Meeting Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
8	Thursday	8:30 10:30 6:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Worship Committee Meeting
9	Friday	6:30	Donor Reception #1 (<i>Check your invite!</i>)
10	Saturday	TBD	Dave Swallow, Lakota Medicine Man

TIME CHANGE STARTS THIS SUNDAY - SPRING FORWARD!

11	Sunday	9:30 9:30 10:25 10:40 10:50 11:30 12:45	Sunday Service Classes for Children Brunch Bunch for Youth Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Second Soup Sunday for Conrad
12	Monday	6:00	Women's Circle & Potluck
13	Tuesday	9:00 4:00	Meditation DiAngelo Racial Literacy Class
14	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 11:00 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Recovering Spirit (aka "Speed Bumps") Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
15	Thursday	8:30 5:15 5:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Board of Trustees Meeting Social Justice Committee Meeting

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

16	Friday	4:00 6:30	Dinner Preparation at Utah's Place Donor Reception #2 (<i>Check your invite!</i>)
17	Saturday	9:00	Building & Grounds Work Party
18	Sunday	9:30 9:30 10:30 10:40 10:50 11:30 12:45	Sunday Service Classes for Children Classes for Youth Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Religious Ed Visioning Team Meeting
19	Monday	9:00	Mountain Chalice Submissions Due
20	Tuesday	9:00 1:00 4:00 4:00	Meditation The New UU: Social Justice Global Affairs Discussion Group DiAngelo Racial Literacy Class
21	Wednesday	8:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
22	Thursday	8:30 10:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group
25	Sunday	9:30 9:30 10:30 10:40 10:50 11:30 2:00	Sunday Service Classes for Children Classes for Youth Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Donor Reception #3 (<i>Check your invite!</i>)
27	Tuesday	9:00 4:00	Meditation DiAngelo Racial Literacy Class
28	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 4:30 5:00	Men's Group Recovering Spirit Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced)
29	Thursday	8:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee
30	Friday	4:00	Dinner Preparation at Utah's Place

APRIL 2018

1	Sunday	First Sunday - Bring Food for Pets & People 9:30 10:40 10:50 11:30	Full Community Sunday Service Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Full Community Sunday Service
2	Monday	11:00	Nominating Committee Meeting
3	Tuesday	9:00 1:00 4:00	Meditation The New UU – Governance & Polity Caring Committee Meeting



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: 530.274.1675

Website: www.uugrassvalley.org

Two Sunday Services: at 9:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

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

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

Tuesday: 10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Wednesday: 4 - 6 P.M.

Thursday: 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Conrad Sisk, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

Butterfly Montgomery, *Religious Ed Coordinator*

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

minister@uugrassvalley.org

admin@uugrassvalley.org

music@uugrassvalley.org

education@uugrassvalley.org

TELEPHONE

530.274.1661

530.274.1675

530.274.1675

530.274.1675

