

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

April 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.

APRIL THEME: EMERGENCE

What does it mean to be a people of emergence?

April 1 **Blessed Fools, Emerging Stories**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with the RE Visioning Team & more, including the Youth Band!

Easter Sunday, Passover, April Fools' Day, Spring... Join us for a creative and fun dive into the themes of emergence and hope through the stories of the season and the stories emerging in our midst. Yes. Eggs will be involved.

April 8 **#MeToo**
Congregation Members with Rev. Kevin Tarsa

The #MeToo movement that is bringing personal experience and the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment to very public light has a chance to change the national dynamic that has kept so much sexual assault and harassment and both its perpetrators and sufferers invisible and ignored. Perhaps it has a chance to change us.

April 15 **Upon the Threshold: Stages in the Faith Journey**
(Whether you think you have a faith or not!)
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

James Fowler, and more recently, Ken Wilber, drew from a wide swath of developmental theories and approaches to better map and understand the faith journey or spiritual journey that unfolds over a person's lifetime. A look at what they found just might strengthen your compassion, allow you to see your neighbor in a new light, and, of course, to discover something about yourself and what is emerging in you.

April 22 **Earth Too: The Rights of Nature**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and others, & Family Choir
(to which all are invited)

Indigenous activism in Ecuador, Bolivia and New Zealand has given birth to the notion that nature itself can have legal rights. On this 48th anniversary of Earth Day, through the lens of our covenantal tradition, honor "the home that gives us birth" and consider your right relationship and rights relationship with this planet.

April 29 **The Writers' Group Presents**
Bev Lyon

Come see the creativity in our midst.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Do you feel something stirring in you, perhaps yet out of sight? What new life is emerging in you? What new life are you envisioning for this UU community? What will help give birth to such new life?

May Easter, Passover, and spring metaphors give you ways to know yourself, and so midwife what is to come.

Emergence...

I have long drawn reassurance and hope from the metaphor of the chicken egg which for 21 days looks unchanged though all the while a miracle is unfolding inside. It is a beautiful experience to witness life emerging from what appears to be lifeless.

Easter, Passover and the earth-centered stories and symbols of spring offer us tools for reflecting on our own experiences and the rhythms of our ongoing journeys. When it comes to personal growth, I have learned that plateaus do not necessarily mean stagnation, though they might. More often, something is stirring, developing, gestating inside, out of sight.

First then, comes the need to let go and to let things incubate, turning things over occasionally and keeping things warm enough while resisting the impatient urge to force a birth before its time. Eventually the time comes for pecking our way out of the shell that holds us, and we emerge, new born in some meaningful way – with a new sense of who we are, of what matters to us, of how the world is, of where we are headed...

This is an annual personal rhythm for me, coinciding with the earth rhythms that shorten and then lengthen the sunlit portion of our days. I've learned to be patient with the process and am often as surprised as anyone to see what new life emerges in me come spring. Often, I feel a new or renewed sense of purpose and direction. I've noticed parallel rhythms in the people and the congregations I've served.

There's a whole lot of life incubating and stirring in the congregation this winter, and, I know, in many of you. I'm hearing more and more of your personal dreams and desires to invest meaningfully in the life of the congregation, to connect to your values, to connect to or differentiate yourself from your families of origin.

With care,

– Rev. Kevin

Appreciating Conrad Sisk

By Kevin Tarsa, UUCM Minister

Conrad Sisk has been, by all accounts - and I mean ALL accounts - a stellar Office Administrator at UUCM. Conrad is perceptive, sensitive, eagle-eyed, proactive, clear, thoughtful, talented, and endlessly patient and kind. People have often named how much they appreciate Conrad's skill and attentiveness. We will miss Conrad greatly.

Conrad will be moving into more sound engineering training and work. We took time on March 11 to tell our Conrad stories, express our appreciation, and gift Conrad with a student membership to the Audio Engineering Society, a 3-year subscription to *Backpacker* magazine, and a beer growler with some gift certificates for liquid to fill that growler.

Meanwhile, Conrad will overlap for two weeks with our new Office Administrator, first guiding her through a typical week, and then finishing up other processes and tasks while she picks up the admin duties more completely.

On behalf of the congregation, I'll wish Conrad our very best wishes and our thoughts and prayers for a marvelous journey ahead.



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



*Taylor Carey,
President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

Board of Trustees

I love Public Television, Public Radio, and Community Radio, even when I don't watch or listen. I love knowing that they are out there bringing knowledge and high quality entertainment to hungry minds and spirits. But I hate pledge drives. Okay, maybe "hate" is too strong a word. I loathe them ... no, that's not quite it either. I detest them ... well, no, that's not exactly it ... okay, I hate them. They irritate me with their constant whining and guilt-tripping, trying to make me feel like a freeloader for allowing my eyes and ears to gaze or eavesdrop on their programming without a laying-on of dollars (even though we are contributing members).

So, guess what? It's pledge time right here at UUCM and I *don't* hate it. Because there is a twist. There will be no shaming, no guilt-mongering, no attempt to pry your hard-earned dollars from your hands with the threat of eternal damnation. That's not what we're about. Ours is not a faith of coercion, but of attraction. We do not huddle together to ward off the horrors of hellfire, but are drawn to one another like lovers, impelled to share, to be here in each other's company where we feel stronger, warmer, and happier. In our little community the act of giving of ourselves is the first act of generosity.

Like all humans, we may be tentative, uncertain, or guarded when first opening up to this peculiar faith of nonbelievers, pagans, spiritualists, and god-centered searchers. But it is interesting to me that in my now 24 years as a UU, one of the most familiar reactions of those who come is their immediate sense of connection and belonging. I recognize that this may not be the universal experience of those who walk through our doors, which may explain why we are such a small denomination, but for those who find their spiritual home here, the connections are strong.

Because I have triumphed to a degree over physical adversity, people who don't know me well or have not heard me speak, often suggest that I become a motivational speaker. This

feeling generally goes away after they have spent some time with me, but to the degree there is any merit in their proposals, I offer the following.

In our little neighborhood high up on Banner Mountain, snow fall poses a mixed blessing. Beautiful and necessary for a healthy water table, it also clogs the veins and arteries of the glorified paths we fondly call "roads," making navigation difficult. To help neighbors struggling in the drifts, I fire up my trusty ATV equipped with a snow plow and dig out as many people as I can within the limits of my machinery. I don't do this with the expectation of reward or payment – though some

folks have contributed a few dollars toward gas or, even better, Scotch – because, deep down, I'm doing this as much for me as for them. I enjoy riding my machine, plowing snow, and helping our friends and neighbors. I get a lot more out of it than they do.

That's why the UUCM pledge drive is different. We give what we can because it brings us joy. Don't deny yourselves.

**DON'T MISS OUR NEXT
TOWN TALK**

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.*

In other news, please mark your calendars for Sunday April 15th. Immediately after the second service, there will be a Town Talk on the coming governance reorganization. The Board wishes to help people understand the nature of the changes and how these might affect them. As I have written over the past few months, to a large extent the changes will be transparent for most people. There will be some name changes as some of what we now call "Committees" will become Ministry "Teams" but their functions will remain pretty much as they are. In addition there will be new teams created to serve the needs of the Ministry in ways that may not be fully apparent at this juncture. We anticipate that there may be concerns from members about ceding too much control to the Minister, and we welcome inquiries on that topic. Please attend.

- Taylor

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.

We already have a few people who have expressed interest in serving, but we still need a few 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.

Our UUCM election will be held at our Congregational Meeting which will be held on May 20th. Please put that on your calendars! Look for biographies of each candidate running for office in the May *Mountain Chalice* newsletter, and please plan to attend our "Meet and Greet" after the second service on Sunday, May 6 where you can talk to the candidates for various positions and find out more about them.

A special thank you for all who have volunteered to step up and serve our congregation so far.

UUCM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

Kathryn Young
Robin Hart and Melissa Ridgway
Dave MacLeod

Chair
Members
Alternate

Committee on Ministry

Communications Assessment

By Gwen Eymann, Member, Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is launching its evaluation of UUCM communications. We recognize that it is important to have a well-informed congregation, especially as we grow in membership. Our plan is to evaluate UUCM's current communication channels regarding effectiveness, timeliness and quality of information. The communication assessment will include channels such as email, *Mountain Chalice*, website, etc. After the evaluation is complete, we will make recommendations on possible enhancements or changes. Everyone will have an opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas.

We will begin with a congregation-wide online survey starting April 1 through April 15. Hard copy surveys will be available in the church office on April 1 for those without computers or for those who are unaccustomed to online activities. Following the survey, Focus Groups will be held on Sunday, April 29 between services and after the late service. This will provide an opportunity to meet with the COM members and share your thoughts and questions face-to-face. Our goal is to learn what's working and what is not working with our current communications systems, and to be able to recommend improvements that will benefit as many people as possible.

We encourage everyone's participation. Your experiences and ideas will help develop recommendations for improvements that will benefit the whole congregation.

You are always welcome to contact any member of COM if you have questions.

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



Membership and Hospitality 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:

April 3 - How Are Decisions Made? Governance and Polity

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.

Potential New Members:

The next "New Member Recognition Sunday" will be at both services on May 20th.

The steps to Membership are:

- 1) Participation in the "Welcome to UUCM" class on Saturday April 14th,
- 2) A conversation with Rev. Kevin,
- 3) Making a pledge of financial support to UUCM,
- 4) Signing the Membership book (this can happen as part of the service on New Member Sunday, or at any other time by arrangement).

If you would like to move towards Membership or if you have questions about any part of the process and would like to find out more, please talk to Claire Miller, Bridget Brackley, Carmen Riley or any of the Sunday morning ushers.

Social Events: Make New Friends, and Keep the Old!

By Claire Miller, Chair, Membership Committee

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2 PM – TRIP TO SO. YUBA STATE PARK

Meet at South Yuba State Park at Bridgeport to enjoy the spring wildflowers along an easy hike beside the Yuba River. Meet at 2 p.m. at the main parking lot at the trailhead for the Buttermilk Bend Trail. There is a State Park fee of \$5.00 per car. If you are interested in carpooling from free parking in Penn Valley, please contact Brenda Morgan at 916-869-5794 (text or phone).

SATURDAY, MAY 5, ANNUAL UUCM SERVICE AUCTION

The annual UUCM Services Auction will have a Mexican theme this year in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Plan to come and bring friends, to enjoy Mexican food and music, watch the fun, and bid for unusual / fun / useful services which have been donated by UUCM members and friends. Also, begin thinking about what you might like to donate.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, VALLEY MUSIC CONCERT #2

Our very own Rev. Kevin, Jordan Thomas-Rose and musical friends will be back for a second evening of delightful entertainment.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4 - CONCERT AND FIREWORKS

Bring your own picnic supper and beverage, and join UU friends, old and new, for a lovely evening at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. There are entrance and parking fees.

SEPTEMBER END OF SUMMER HOE DOWN

Date to be determined, enjoy an evening of fun, food, singing and fellowship, including a talent show and other entertainment (still to be determined)

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:

- April 1 - last names beginning with A to E
- April 8 - last names beginning with F to J
- April 15 - last names beginning with J to R
- April 22 - last names beginning with S to Z
- April 29 - ALL are invited to bring snacks today

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

Mission: Possible Countdown

By Keith Johnson, Stewardship Committee Chair

The end of the 2018 pledge campaign is upon us. The grand finale is the congregational dinner on Saturday, April 7. We promise a good time will be had by all. If you have not already done so, please RSVP so we can have an accurate head count for food and drink. Use this link to RSVP <https://goo.gl/forms/iVDMUMALON92Ti8p2>, or contact a Stewardship Team member.

As we contemplate our annual pledge, it is helpful to remind ourselves that religious messages about money and wealth are universal. Here are some examples.

HINDUISM:

Wealth accumulated through 100 hands should be distributed to 1000 hands. (Atharva Veda Samhita iii-24-5)

BUDDHISM:

One is the path that leads to material wealth, the other is the path that leads to Nirvana. -Gautama Buddha (Dhammapada 5-75)

JUDAISM:

All the tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the trees, are the Lord's; they are holy to the Lord... All tithes of herd and flock every tenth one that passes under the shepherd's staff, shall be holy to the Lord. (Leviticus 27:30, 32)

CHRISTIANITY:

Give, and it will be given to you...for the measure you give will be measure you get back. (Luke 6:38)

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

ISLAM:

Believe in Allah and His apostle, and spend in charity out of the substance whereof He has made you heirs. For, those of you who believe and spend in charity for them is a great Reward. (Quran 57:7)

See you at the congregational dinner!



Cinco de Mayo Celebration and Auction is a GO!

By Bob Miller, Member, Stewardship Committee

Our Cinco de Mayo Celebration and Auction on May 5th (duh!) is GO! It will include live Spanish/Mexican music and lots more to be advertised soon. Right now, we hope all of you are focusing on the Mission Possible! Congregational Dinner on Saturday, April 7th.

**Please save
Saturday, May 5th
for our
Cinco de Mayo
Celebration & Auction**



Your action now is to enter, (or have entered for you) items in the online auction catalog. We already have three draft items. See www.togetherauction.com/uucm

Think dinners, vacation home rentals, guided tours, hikes, cakes, pies, games night, car washing, baby-minding, bike maintenance, harp lessons, gardening help, hand-crafted items, handyman help, professional consultation, computer help, or you can donate new, unused items.

How?

Once again we will be using the website to create our catalog and administer the auction. You can enter your items yourself but many will prefer to work with one of our "Auction Consultants." If so, please email or phone one of the following:

Cynthia Schuetz	cynthia43@gmail.com	530-268-0960
Charlie Zimmerman	cezwho99@yahoo.com	530-478-1953

They will help you with the wording of your offering and pricing. They can submit it to the website or have you do it yourself. You can access the website at: <http://www.togetherauction.com/uucm> Click on other years to see previous catalogs. There is a way you can "offer again" a donation from a previous year.

A COOL NEW MISSION

Missions are in the air at UUCM. We have a mission. It has been explained that heat at UUCM in the winter and cooling in the summer is totally dependent on a successful auction. If you hate the thought of seeing John Burnside walking around with his hands tied behind his back then get on board with the auction. Our motto is: **Cool is Good**

Continued on next page

Stewardship, cont...

ADMINISTRATIVE

To donate, bid and receive notifications you need to be registered on the auction website. We registered most people last year but if you are new to UUCM, have changed your email address or phone number, please let Bob Miller know.

Brought to you by the 2018 Auction Project Team

Questions: bob@sierramiller.com 530-205-5047

Caring Committee

Opportunities to Shower Love and Caring in April

By Anne Lyon, Chair, Caring Committee

We THINK Spring has sprung....but....? We hope this new month brings you bountiful joys, new learnings and hope.

Caring Committee has had a quiet March, with only a few folk needing rides, shopping or errands run. The month of April will see Maryann Currington finding those services, so feel free to call and let us know how we can help.

This past month we met with the *Drop In Support Group* and *Recovering Spirit*, with Rev. Kevin. We are joined under the Caring Team umbrella, and hope to learn new skills to help our UU community.

We are updating the Volunteer List, so you might get a phone call from Gwen to see if the information we have for you is still current. We could use volunteers, so if you are interested, do join us for the next Caring Committee meeting April 3rd, at 4:00 p.m., or the following meeting on May 8 also at 4:00 p.m.

We are sad to have lost one of our long-term members, **Sunny Holmes**. We are planning a Celebration of Life for her mid-April.

Barbara Chestnut has decided to move to Bret Harte, after a fall. She's using a walker and is taking physical therapy. Her attitude is upbeat, and she is looking forward to being in town and able to make it to UU!

Donna Foddrell is coming along pretty well! She still uses the sling off and on, and has now resumed driving locally.

May Lawrence is home, once again, with increased energy and a leg that continues to heal.

Building & Grounds

Rain or Shine, We Show Up!

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building and Grounds

Never let be said that our working volunteers are put off by a little weather. Our March Work Day found a few hardy volunteers doing some yard work outside. They did dodge some rain drops and a little bit of hail, but the primary project of cleaning up the patio growing area was accomplished in an amazingly short amount of time. Thank you.

While that was going on nine of us were inside the building doing normal cleaning and maintenance and putting in new light fixtures in the upstairs RE area and bathroom. It is amazing to watch Paul Elias and Joel figure out how to put modern day lighting fixtures into electrical fixtures designed in 1939. It takes some creative thinking. The sanctuary received a good amount of cleaning attention besides the routine cleaning that is always done. David Ferrier did some repairs on the side wall plastering to help prepare for the upcoming painting of our sanctuary. We have also re-marked the floors with colored dots to help us place the chairs in a consistent pattern since we have needed to increase the number of chairs thanks to all of you coming to our services. I want to again thank everyone who volunteered to devote three hours to our UU community.

Last month I stated that our new roof repair had not yet been tested. Well, Mother Nature provided five inches of rain this week for a test. I am pleased to report that the repair worked, Yay!! We still have a few small chronic leaks to figure out, but I am hopeful that we will be able to do this in the next few months when the weather warms some so we can work on the roof.

If all goes well, the next stage of the sanctuary painting will be happening in the next few weeks. We will be tackling the tall front wall. When that gets accomplished we will be ready for the big side wall painting project and will be asking for additional help. Please keep that in your mind if you would be willing to help with that job. We will be letting you know when that will happen. Our goal is sometime in April.

Again, I will ask that if you are reading this and think that this might be rewarding and fun give us a try. As spring comes we will be needing a lot of help getting the outside in shape. And as always there is always inside work and projects to accomplish. I hope to see you this month. We love meeting new people.



Endowment Committee

UUCM Endowment Fund Update

By Joel Houtman, Chair,
Endowment Committee

The Endowment Fund Committee has been inactive of late but we are back at it! The committee has reformed with the following membership: Joel Houtman, George Dunstan, and Ron Drake.

We want to remind members of our *Simple Gifts* program. This program encourages anytime giving to the Endowment Fund. Each *Simple Gift* received brings us closer to our goal of \$50,000. At that level we can start putting the fund to work for our community.

Simple Gifts can be a way to celebrate or commemorate special occasions like anniversaries, weddings etc. *Simple Gifts* can also be a way to express our gratitude to someone who means a lot to us. As part of the *Simple Gifts* program, a Gratitude Book has been created. Those who make *Simple Gifts* to the UUCM Endowment Fund are invited to sign the Gratitude Book and write a short personal message.

Look for brochures in a rack near the entrance door. When you wish to make a *Simple Gift*, envelopes are available in that rack. Just fill out the donor form in the envelope and make a check out to "UUCM Endowment Fund". The envelope can be mailed in or left with the office administrator.

If you have any questions about *Simple Gifts* or the UUCM Endowment Fund, feel free to contact an Endowment Committee member.

Contact: Joel Houtman, Committee Chair
jhout46@att.net, 530-273-2925



From the Admins



Welcome, Carol Fulkerson, UUCM's new Office Administrator!

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Minister

I am very pleased to announce UUCM's new Office Administrator, Carol Fulkerson. She begins on March 26, overlapping with Conrad's employment for two weeks. (Special thanks to Beth Freedman and Bob Miller, who helped me screen and interview candidates, and Janet Dunstan, who, with Beth and Conrad's input, helped to update the job description.)

Carol has lived and worked in Grass Valley for more than a decade and will bring significant office management and administration experience to her role here. We have appreciated her knowledge, skill and candidness, and know that she will be of wonderful benefit to UUCM. Look for news of official welcoming opportunities, and watch the May *Mountain Chalice* for an introduction from Carol herself. In the meantime, give her a chance to get started, then pop in to offer a brief "Hello."

We'll post Carol's Monday-to-Friday office hours once they are settled.

Thank You, from Conrad

By Conrad Sisk, UUCM's Out-Going Office Administrator

Office administrators like sound engineers typically operate behind the scenes; if you're in the spotlight, it's because something has gone awry and is causing trouble for ministers and congregations, performers and concert-goers.

As such, I hope you'll forgive that I was apprehensive about being front-and-center at the Soup Lunch on March 11 celebrating my time with you all. Don't worry, I got over it before my fourth bowl of soup (so many delicious choices!) and had a great time. Thank you to each of you who attended and to those of you who recounted memories of our experiences together aloud. Thank you also to those of you who have taken the time to stop in, write, or call with your well wishes. This outpouring of generosity and kindness has been an uplifting if bittersweet bonus for me as I've prepared to move on from the office administrator position.

It's been my pleasure to work with you all and to watch the community evolve over the past 3.25 years. I'm fortunate to have met each of you, and I hope to see you around. For now though: "So long, it's been good to know ya!"

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. Currently they need both 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. Contact Keith Johnson (530-265-0277).

DONATIONS FOR NEVADA COUNTY PETS OF THE HOMELESS/PETS IN NEED

By Carol Hyndman, Member, Social Justice Committee

Please remember donations for Nevada County Pets of the Homeless will be collected on the first Sunday of each month when food donations are collected for the Interfaith Food Ministry. Nevada County Pets of the Homeless provides food and services for our homeless and their pets. Nevada County Pets of the Homeless is now also called Nevada County Pets in Need, serving not only pets of the homeless also pets of lower income people.

Alaska UU Adventure

WhaleCoast Alaska June 2018

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2018 is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska!

Tours led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. For complete information go to: www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org or call David Frey at 907-322-4966.

Discount for groups of 8 or more. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Women's Circle in April - Songfest

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 6 P.M. at UUCM

Janet Bullock loves to teach people to sing and lead songs... we'll do a mixture of rounds and simple songs, some harmonizing, favorite camp songs and more. If you have songs to suggest, please contact Janet at janetbullock41@gmail.com

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.



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.

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)



Humanism Discussion Group

FIRST WEDNESDAYS FROM 10:30 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

IN THE CHANNING ROOM

By George Dunstan

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).

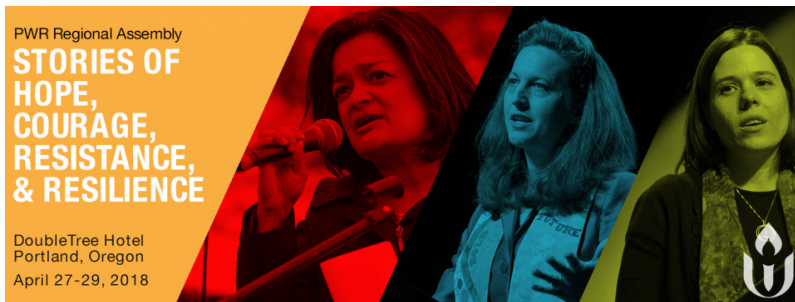
Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Register Now for Regional Assembly!

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

Join your fellow western Unitarian Universalists in Portland, Oregon, April 27-29. Registration (<https://register.pwruua.org/regional-assembly-registration/>) for the Pacific Western Regional Assembly will be open through **April 15**.

Still haven't decided if you're going? Take a look at the variety of workshops, dynamic speakers and other offerings via the Regional Assembly website. (<https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/regional-assembly>)



Got youngsters? Great! We have an exciting Kids' Camp planned for them. (<https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/regional-assembly/childrens-program-childcare>)

Got teens? Wonderful! They'll be Making CoUrageous Connections together. (<https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/regional-assembly/youth-ra>)

Each district will hold their annual meeting on Saturday afternoon, April 28. If you will be attending Regional Assembly and would like to serve as a delegate for your congregation,

contact your board president. They have through **April 20** to certify the delegates from your congregation.

Hope to see you in Portland!

Regional Mission Trip for Youth & 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?

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.



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 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 ebliss@uua.org

Full Community Education

Religious Exploration

By Lindsay Dunckel, Co-Chair,
Religious Education Visioning Team

In April, the children and their teachers will explore what it means to be a people of EMERGENCE. One of the fun things about emergence is that you don't know what is emerging until it has already emerged. You can't fully tell what is coming until it has come! Or to put it another way, being a people of emergence involves doing all we can, trusting the process and keeping an eye out for unexpected opportunities to emerge. The month begins with Easter - a celebration of the emergence of Spring as well as the story of Jesus' emergence from the tomb. This month in Religious Exploration classes, we'll look at the story of William Ellery Channing, who helped Unitarianism emerge in the form we know it today here in the United States. We'll tell the story of Passover and the emergence of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. We'll celebrate Earth Day with some emergent nature art like that of Andy Goldsworthy. And, of course, we will play some games that let us use our whole bodies in exploring the theme of emergence.

Welcome, Alexas Kaldenbach, UUCM's New Childcare Coordinator

Alexas Kaldenbach has joined the UUCM team as the Childcare Coordinator. Alexas is a Senior at Bear River High School, a member of the Friendship Club, and an active community volunteer. She has previous experience providing childcare for the Triple P Positive Parenting classes offered through the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office and holds a babysitting certificate from Sierra College and is CPR certified. She will be providing childcare for our youngest children on Sunday mornings and all our children at special events and meetings.

Join the Family Choir this Month!!

By Jordan Thomas-Rose, UUCM Music Director

This coming April, we are planning a UUCM Family Choir! What's a family choir? Glad you asked! A family choir is a fun, group singing extravaganza where you get to join your UUCM family and friends and learn songs together then perform for the congregation. It's all ages friendly, all people friendly, and all skill levels friendly. It's minimal commitment, with two rehearsals being offered (Wednesday, April 11th and another date TBA) at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, but we're only asking that you make whichever one is convenient to you. Then on Sunday, April 22nd, we will all gather at 8:30 a.m. to put the finishing touches on the piece and perform it at the services that day! You won't need to be able to read music, or even

read, as it will all be taught by listening and singing. There will be recordings of the songs sent out for those who want to listen and learn on their own time, so keep an eye out! This is a great opportunity to get your feet wet in the great wide world of song, and a fun way to interact with your community here at UUCM. Bring your whole family, every friend you can round up, and come sing with us!



Meet Cynthia Schuetz: NEW ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/EXPLORATION CHAIR

Taking on the role of Adult RE chair both excites and humbles me. Supporting UUCM's mission to, "cultivate spiritual, emotional and intellectual strength"...what could be more exciting and humbling!

THE FACTS:

My Masters in Public Health and PhD in Community Health Education prepared me for a career in adult education. My coursework had, at its core, a focus on adult learning theory, behavior change, program design and group process. I taught at San Francisco State University for over 20 years, preparing majors and graduate students to be community health educators.

THE EXPERIENCE:

My mentors, particularly at San Jose State where I got my MPH, showed me how to put all that theory into practice by demonstrating in their classrooms best practices in teaching and offering me the opportunity to teach classes and design and facilitate workshops. My students/workshop participants taught me what worked...and, perhaps more importantly, what didn't. Carl Rogers, Parker Palmer, bell hooks and Jane Tompkins offered me deep insights about educating adults through their writings: it takes courage, it can be a spiritual journey, it's creative and it must be student-centered and participatory.

I look forward to working with a team of people who want to learn from you about what will cultivate your strengths. Stay tuned!

Find Out What's Happening!

Please "like" and join our RE at UUCM Facebook page in order to encourage more of the youth and families to be in the know of what is happening at UUCM.

Like us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/REatUUCM/>



6th to 12th Graders:

**Join in UUCM's
very own**

**Breakfast
Club!**

You are invited to come to the

UUCM BRUNCH BUNCH!

WHEN: Second Sunday of each month

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

WHAT: Walk to a Grass Valley restaurant,
and eat breakfast with other UUCM youth!

COST*: Depends on what you order!

WHY?:

- Get to know other UU youth
- Have **authentic** conversations about things that matter
- Explore our monthly themes such as:
Emergence, Creativity, Blessing...

...and have FUN!

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



Adult Religious Education



Food for Thought and Reflection from Soul Matters

What does it mean to be a people of emergence?

*Let mystery have its place in you; do not be always turning up
your whole soil with the plowshare of self-examination,
but leave a little fallow corner in your heart ready
for any seed the winds may bring,
and reserve a nook of shadow for the passing bird;
keep a place in your heart for the unexpected guests,
an altar for an unknown God.
- Henri-Frederic Ariel*

Make a bit of room. Leave a little space. Keep a lookout for the unexpected. These directions may not sound like anything radical or revolutionary. But it turns out that these are often Life's favorite ways to help us emerge into something new.

Henri-Frederic Ariel's reminder about leaving room and letting some things be is especially important as we move into the season of spring. During this time of year, it's not just farmers but us all who turn to the work of "tilling and turning up our whole soil." All around us, the culture shouts its heroic talk about striving and perfecting. Struggle is the dominant metaphor of the day. We talk of "fighting" to become all we can be. Images of sprouts breaking through concrete start showing up everywhere. Yet, we need to be careful because, more often than not, emergence and transformation is a much subtler art. It's about stillness, listening and waiting to be led, not conquering, struggle and taking charge.

In other words, when it comes to emerging into something new, the message of spirituality is "Be careful with what you've been taught and told because much of it takes us in exactly the wrong direction." As a people of emergence, we are called to take a different tack. We've been entrusted with the wisdom that emergence is most often about breathing rather than becoming better, patience not perfection, depth not dominance, acceptance not striving, attention not constant improvement.

That part about attention instead of improvement is especially important. It's so easy to get transformation mixed up with fixing. And fixing is emergence's biggest foe. Trying to perfect or prove ourselves is the surest way to stay stuck. The pursuit of constant improvement and perfection focuses us on our inadequacy and inferiority, causing us to overlook those unexpected guests that Henri-Frederic speaks of.

And, friends, we don't want to miss those unexpected guests!

Those seeds brought by the wind and those passing birds are the partners that make emergence possible. They help us notice new paths. They invite us to walk with a new step. They awaken in us new songs. They remind us that new life is not something we do alone.

They assure us that transformation doesn't have to be a long and lonely struggle, but instead can be more like learning a new dance with a new friend. All we have to do is trust, take the hand of that "unknown God" and follow its lead.

So, this month, leave some room on that dance floor of yours. Keep your eyes peeled. And when that unexpected guest reaches out its hand, make sure you're ready to take hold.

Soul Matters Themes for 2018

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

April:

May:

June:

Emergence

Creativity

Blessing

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?

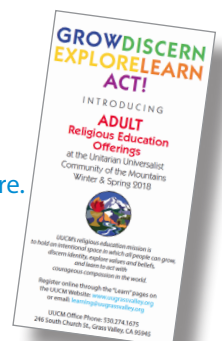
In the book, *Simply Pray*, Erik Walker Wikstrom explores the universal qualities of prayer and offers a way to incorporate this spiritual practice into your personal journey. He even suggests a new, contemporary prayer bead practice.

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



April 2018 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
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MARCH 2018

28	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 5:00	Men's Group Recovering Spirit 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 People & Pets 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 9:30 1:00 4:00	Meditation Membership Committee Meeting The New UU – Governance & Polity Caring Committee Meeting
4	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
5	Thursday	8:30 7:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Singing Meditation Circle
7	Saturday	5:30	Congregational Dinner
8	Sunday	9:30 9:30 10:25 10:40 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service Classes for Children Brunch Bunch for Youth Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service
9	Monday	6:00	Women's Circle & Potluck
10	Tuesday	9:00 4:00	Meditation DiAngelo Racial Literacy Class
11	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 11:00 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Recovering Spirit Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
12	Thursday	8:30 10:30 5:30 6:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group Social Justice Night Worship Committee Meeting

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
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14	Saturday	9:00	The New UU – Welcome to UU(CM)
15	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
17	Tuesday	9:00 4:00 4:00	Meditation DiAngelo Racial Literacy Class Global Affairs Discussion Group
18	Wednesday	8:30 4:30 5:00 6:30	Men's Group Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced) Choir Rehearsal
19	Thursday	8:30 5:15 5:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Board of Trustees Meeting Social Justice Committee Meeting
20	Friday	4:00	Dinner Preparation at Utah's Place
21	Saturday	9:00	Building & Grounds Work Party
22	Sunday	9:30 9:30 10:30 10:40 10:50 11:30	Sunday Service Classes for Children Classes for Youth Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service
23	Monday	9:00	Mountain Chalice Submissions Due
24	Tuesday	9:00 4:00	Meditation DiAngelo Racial Literacy Class
25	Wednesday	8:30 10:30 4:30 5:00	Men's Group Recovering Spirit Youth Music (Beginner) Youth Music (Advanced)
26	Thursday	8:30 10:30	Men's Group - What's Up Coffee Writers' Group
28	Saturday	2:00	Visit to State Park at Bridgeport
29	Sunday	9:30 9:30 10:30 10:40 10:45 10:50 11:30 12:45	Sunday Service Classes for Children Classes for Youth Social Time & "A Board Member Is In" Communications Focus Group Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Communications Focus Group



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 Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 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*

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

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