

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

May 2019

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**Two Service Times on Sundays: 9:30 AM or 11:30 AM**

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 AM service, and classes for youth (6th-12th grades) are offered at 10:30 AM. Nursery care is available for both services.

### MAY:

#### **What does it mean to be a people of Curiosity?**

The words that French post-impressionist artist Paul Gauguin added to an upper corner of this final painting – "Where do we come from? to What are we? Where are we going?" – frame our exploration of curiosity this month. Curiosity, inquiring beyond the veneer of the status quo, is what led many of us out of religious traditions that required credal assent, to knock on the door of Unitarian Universalism, where curiosity and questioning are held as foundational (if formidably continual) ideals.

**May 5      Where do we come from?  
Lindsay Dunckel, Rev. Kevin Tarsa, and all**

This month marks the 57th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. This opening Sunday of our new theme of curiosity, we celebrate how our religious forebears overcame the fear of dissolution and formed our free Unitarian Universalist church, unbound by dogma and creed.

**May 12      Where do we come from? What are we?  
Wendy Wernigg and other Mothers**

What better way to find out where we come from and what we are than by listening to mothers? Motherhood is a curious journey. It transforms women in expected and unexpected ways. It also transforms babies into adults. Mothers help to transform us all. UUCM mothers reflect on their transformative journeys in motherhood.

**May 19      The Space Between the Notes:  
Annual Music Service with Jordan Thomas-Rose, UUCM Musicians, Rev. Kevin, and you**

UUCM's annual Music Service invites the artistry of composers, lyricists, and our talented UUCM music makers to reach us beneath the level of words. With UUCM's director of music, Jordan Thomas-Rose, our fine musicians of many ages, and Rev. Kevin, come let

music reach your heart and invite your own reflection on where you've come from, what you are, and where you are going.

**May 26      Where do we come from? What are we?  
Where are we going?  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa**

No sooner had American Unitarians courageously defined themselves as clearly distinct from their orthodox roots and neighbors, than a new branch budded off of Unitarianism! The transcendentalist movement born in our tradition influences American thought and Unitarian Universalism to this day. Ralph Waldo Emerson, "the most recognized and (by many) revered figure in the Unitarian movement," valued curiosity as overcoming fear of non-conformity in order to stay ever open minded to the spirit of love, or as he would say it, "God." His invitation remains.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

May 4. Your insight and creativity are vital to UUCM's future.

I encourage you to bring your curiosity and creativity to your current and future roles at UUCM, listening for wisdom in how those roles have been lived by others in the past, sure, while also trusting your own new sense of what might best serve the work and the mission of this community.

What does it mean to be a people of curiosity?

Being curious is pretty much a pre-requisite for exploring and joining a Unitarian Universalist community. Curiosity is built into the nature of our religious tradition, leading people again and again to new questions, new paths, new understandings. Our UU "inquisition" is ongoing, directed not at others and conformity, but toward the goal of personal and communal integrity and wholeness.

I've named often that our Unitarian Universalist religious tradition does not hand us the ready answers or a pre-approved set of final beliefs that we can or must claim. This is both a blessing and burden, asking of us a curiosity, creativity and a commitment that require an investment of time and effort. UUCM's mission statement names members' aspiration to hold a sense of wonder. I read that wonder as both a feeling of surprise and awe as well as a ready curiosity.

We do have commonly shared anchor points in Unitarian Universalism, the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, for example, but even these widely vetted and voted upon anchors ask of us our own testing and seal of approval. As with everything in our tradition, they too may be changed as our experience and insight requires.

It can be exhausting and exhilarating work, my friends, and though there are occasional and welcome plateaus, it is work that never ends. Curiosity will ever remain at the heart of the UU spiritual journey. Happily, it is not solo work.

I encourage you to join in the Visioning session on Saturday,



I encourage you to draw on the idea considered by Cicero that "relegere" is the true root of the word, "religion," which invites us to think in terms of re-reading, seeing anew, thinking, feeling, moving anew in relation to what already is.

I encourage you to wonder how justice might be creatively summoned and supported through UUCM and its people in these troubling times.

This May, may we keep our eyes, ears, minds and hearts open to our realities as they exist, to the possibilities hinted at by our curiosity and questions, and to the hope that we might narrow a few of the gaps between what is and what could be.

- Rev. Kevin

Are you curious? The photo is of dye in shaving cream - one of the many egg coloring techniques engaged at this year's UUCM egg decorating party on April 19th.

### UUCM 20/20 Vision SATURDAY, MAY 4, 9:30-NOON

Join with your UUCM family for an interactive, inter-generational quest to surface the vision for UUCM's future.

Attentive to our varied personalities and temperaments, we'll offer multiple options for engaging your deep vision for UUCM. Then we'll draw on each other's insight and look for the strong themes among us.

The Board and Ministry teams will draw on the day's inspiration and insight to discern the priorities for pursuing our mission goals of compassion, sustainability, and justice in 2019-2020.

All ages are invited and encouraged to take part in dreaming our future and imagining our way toward our vision.

#### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Wednesday	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Thursday	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

*Other times by arrangement.*

*Please call or email Rev. Kevin to make an appointment.*  
[minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or (231) 883-1058

# Board of Trustees



Taylor Carey,  
President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees

Dear Members and Friends of UUCM,

This is my penultimate President's column. My second term in office is over on June 30, 2019. I might even miss being involved in the nuts and bolts of church operations and decision-making. Church governance is unlike government governance. I worked in high-level government service for nearly 30 years for the state of California. In some ways it was easier to get things done there than here.

But I don't mean that in only the negative sense. Getting things done at the state level often means doing the wrong thing very expensively, or even doing the right thing the wrong way. Or just doing nothing for its own sake.

Here every move is cradled in many long, earnest conversations exploring not only the pros and cons of the thing itself, but also the implications of the manner of doing it and whether it reflects our commitment to our mission. I was warned. Several voices of experience cautioned me not to get too caught up in achieving my goals. That way, they cautioned, leads to madness.

They were right. But, and this gets overlooked much too often, one also learns that focussing too narrowly on achieving a single unwavering objective can blind the crusader to the rewards lying along the way. Despite occasional frustrations and annoyances the opportunity to work closely with other Board members on matters and issues that mean so much to each of us is the greatest reward of all. One learns that the journey matters as much as the destination.

So, against this backdrop, let me bring you up to date on where we are and where we are going. First, some mildly unhappy news. Chuck Champlin has decided to resign from the Board for personal reasons. We knew from the outset that it would be a challenge for him to wear so many hats. Managing his roles as Worship Associate, choir member, and Board member while living so far away was never going to be easy. Although we will miss his thoughtful counsel, we are grateful for the time he gave us and heartened that his commitment to UUCM is as firm as ever. Although the Board is empowered to appoint a new member to fill the last of Chuck's term for the Board year, we have decided to leave it open and let you fill the vacancy when elections are held at our Annual Meeting.

That brings me directly to that happy occasion. This year we have chosen to delay the Annual Meeting until Sunday, June 9, 2019. As it happens, none of the dates in late May permitted all of the people critical to a successful meeting to attend. We have decided to put substance over form. Although the bylaws specify a May meeting, and that was our intention, there is precedent for holding our meeting in June.

Some things that you have to look forward to at the meeting include the election of new Board members and officers and a new slate for the Nominating Committee, adopting a budget, and approving a proposed amendment to our bylaws.

You will learn more about Board and Nominating Committee members in the coming weeks. I am happy to report that we have already agreed on a budget to be presented for your consideration and adoption. Unfortunately, though the current year's budget is actually going to close in the black, the proposed budget will require dipping into reserves. We don't do this lightly, but pledge income ebbs and flows while expenses remain fairly constant. The choice to spend a bit more to maintain our commitment to our mission requires this step. That is what our reserves are for. Bear in mind, however, that sometime within the next 12 months we will finally lay our mortgage to rest freeing up \$27,000 dollars annually to replenish our reserves and more. Do not be afraid. This is not Congress. The prospect of a large influx of available money does not set Board members aquiver with spending palsy.

- Taylor

## UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019

Taylor Carey	<i>President</i>
Jim Perkins	<i>Vice-President</i>
Charlie Zimmerman	<i>Treasurer</i>
Karyn Packard	<i>Secretary</i>

### Members at Large:

Maryann Currington & Dennis Weiher

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

# Welcoming and Membership Team



## Welcome New Members!

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Last month, UUCM welcomed four new members: David Moss, Allison Rivers Samson, David Samson, and Reine Thibeault. They will be welcomed more publicly in a Sunday service later this spring. Meanwhile, here is a self-introduction from Allison Rivers Samson and David Samson.



### ALLISON RIVERS SAMSON

Allison Rivers Samson has lived in Nevada City since 2002. A spiritual seeker since youth, she feels right at home with the questions, pondering, acceptance, and openness of Unitarian Universalism. She deeply values authenticity and growth.

When not at UUCM, Allison teaches weekly Nia dance classes. Ask her about them! As a writer and sustainability expert, she coaches people and businesses to align their actions with their values.

Allison was a professional vegan chef for 22 years, created the first online vegan bakery and chocolaterie, and wrote a popular magazine column—she even won awards for her creations and her recipes! In the food realm, she now consults with restaurants and cafés to present amazing vegan dishes for their customers, hosts our UUCM Vegan Potlucks, and will be offering opportunities to learn about living more sustainably. Allison is excited about growing through serving at UUCM on the Worship and OWL Teams. She lives with her husband, David, and their awesome 12-year-old daughter, Olivia.



### DAVID SAMSON

David Samson was born in Monterey, California, but grew up in Miami, Florida. His family was Jewish but it never really clicked for him. He recently joined UUCM and loves it's inclusive and open-minded style. He enjoys meeting new people and hearing inspiring sermons. He has always been

fascinated by technology and earned degrees in engineering from both Tulane University and the University of Florida. He is currently using his engineering skills to create software for medical devices and video games. When not doing techie stuff, David likes to play guitar in the UU "Dad" band, practice Tai Chi, dance Nia, and spend time with his wife Allison and their amazing daughter Olivia.

## Hospitality Team

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 AM

This month's schedule for contributing snacks:

May 5 - last names beginning with A to E

May 12 - last names beginning with F to J

May 19 - last names beginning with K to R

May 26 - last names beginning with S to Z

If you plan to bring a snack, please contact Marilyn Young ([MarilynY04@gmail.com](mailto:MarilynY04@gmail.com)).

### SET UP AND CLEAN UP HELPERS NEEDED

We really could use more volunteers for both set up and clean up for our Hospitality Hour. It's not a difficult task, and you'll be working with others, so the job goes quickly. Please let Marilyn Young know if you can volunteer once a month, or...?



## Stewardship Team

### *Pledge Campaign a Resounding Success!*

*By Keith Johnson, Chair, Stewardship Team*

The Stewardship Team is happy to report the results of the 2019/20 pledge drive. With a few pledges outstanding, we have received pledges totaling \$200,014. Our campaign goal was \$200,000. Mission accomplished! A sincere thank you to all members and friends who gave so generously to help UUCM fulfill its mission. The journey does indeed call us on.

There are many reasons for the success of the campaign. We received 110 pledges, which is slightly down from 2018/19. Forty-four pledgers, or 40%, increased their pledge from last year. We have seven new pledges from friends and members who have joined UUCM since July, 2018.

Our pledges in the aggregate show impressive breadth. Experts in church finance have long lamented the skewed nature of church giving. In many churches it is not uncommon for 20% of church members to give 80% of church income – the so-called 20/80 rule. This is not the case at UUCM. The top 20% of pledges at UUCM represents only 55% of total pledge income. We are truly a community in which everyone gives to the best of their ability.

The attainment of our pledge goal was achieved despite some adversity. Ten members and friends chose not to pledge and let their membership lapse. Some could not sustain their prior giving level due to new jobs, job loss, retirement, age-related issues, and other unspecified reasons. Twenty-six pledgers decreased their pledge from last year.

It is noteworthy that 30% of our members and friends pledged the same amount as last year. This is something of a two-edged sword. On the one hand, we commend those who were able to maintain their prior giving level. On the other hand, expenses such as cost of living increases for staff and building maintenance go up each year. A focus for the Stewardship Team next year will be to encourage our community to increase our pledges each year to fund our escalating expenses.

Enough about next year. For now we celebrate this year. Thanks again for choosing UUCM as the recipient of your amazing generosity.

## Fund-Raising

### *Support Merchants Who Support UUCM!*

*By Bob Packard, Chair, Finance*

Did you know that these merchants give back to the community? UUCM is registered as a community organization and receives a share of all that you spend at SPD and at Amazon, provided you provide instructions by registering.

Here's how:

For Amazon, create an "Amazon Smile" account for all your online shopping, and they will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to UUCM. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and log in with the same credentials you've been using for your current Amazon account. Then look up "Unitarian Universalists Community of the Mountains" and designate them as the organization you want to support. Then use the Amazon Smile account when you shop and they will start sending money to our church.



Shop at SPD for your groceries and use the eScrip card to earn up to 3% of your purchase price for UUCM. You will be fundraising every time you shop at SPD if you use your SPD Community Card or your registered phone number. A Finance Committee member will help fill out eScrip applications at next Sunday's services. Or go online now and do it yourself! SPD buys local and helps UUCM thrive.



## Caring Team

### We're Here for YOU!

By Gwen Eymann, Acting Chair, Caring Team

In our community we share our joys and our sorrows, and with this sharing we grow deeper in our connections with one another and more whole within ourselves.

The Caring Team continues to monitor the congregation for folks who might need a hand, a ride, a meal, or a listening ear. Our strength as a congregation is reflected in the wonderful ways people have stepped up and offered to help. If you know someone who could use help and support, please let us know.

If you are drawn to this important work of supporting others through care and kind attention, please contact me or Rev. Kevin. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 4:00 PM at UUCM, and we'd be glad to speak with you about the possibilities.

Contact: Gwen Eymann (530) 274-7965,  
or email: [caring@ugrassvalley.org](mailto:caring@ugrassvalley.org)

### CARING TEAM MEMBERS:

Gwen Eymann, *acting chair*, Anne Lyon,  
Maryann Currington, Penny Harlan, Maryann Hart,  
Robin Hart, Jenny Dewey, Carol Hyndman,  
May Lawrence

## UU General Assembly

### The Power of We

JUNE 19 - 23, 2019 IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations send voting delegates.

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities. <https://www.uua.org/ga>

## Building and Grounds

### Thank You to Mother Nature and UU Volunteers for April Work Day!

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building and Grounds Team

We had a great turnout even though the workday was on a different day than normal. Mother Nature cooperated with us by giving us a perfect day to work outside. I want to thank Carmen, Theresa, Bridget, Connie, Gwen and Jim who spent the entire day working, weeding, planting and generally cleaning up the yard and garden.



Inside Bonnie and Keith worked on cleaning the chairs and Joel worked putting up the upper rail in the front of the church. The rail will be used to hang a fabric that artwork can be attached to in order to save the front wall from getting holes. In the meantime, George and I put up the first of the blackening window shades for the sanctuary windows.



If you think you might want to volunteer, our next work day will be on Saturday, May 18th. This is a great place to meet people and spend a few hours keeping our building and grounds in tiptop shape.

## Endowment Committee



*Long  
Live  
Your  
Values*

*By Joel Houtman, Endowment Committee Chair*

**Long Live Your Values** has been proposed by our new committee member Lesley Champlin as our committee slogan. In a few words, it encapsulates the goal of an Endowment Fund. Historically Endowment Funds have been a source of income and financial stability for a congregation. It is a method that the older generation can use to help next generations maintain our community and advance it's mission.

Some congregations have been in existence for a couple of hundred years and have developed Endowment Funds so large that the profit from these funds is their main source of income. UUCM, however, has not been around so long. So we need to start now. The immediate goal of our Fund is \$50,000. At that point our policy would allow us to start taking profit if we chose.

In the last year we have grown our cash on hand from about \$10,000 to \$30,000. We have also signed up 13 individuals and couples to pledge legacy gifts totaling about \$250,000. We have just started!

You can become a donor by adding UUCM as one of your beneficiaries to your will, trust, or retirement fund. We also accept Stocks or Mutual Funds.

### **RECENT UUCM ENDOWMENT LEGACY GIFTS:**

Thank you Dawn and Bob Bateman for their generous bequest of adding UUCM as a beneficiary to their estate. Also, we wish to thank Gwen Eyemann for donating a Mutual Fund.

If you wish to participate in the UUCM Endowment Legacy Program please contact:

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Joel Houtman, Chair | <a href="mailto:jhout46@att.net">jhout46@att.net</a><br>530-273-2925                       |
| Dawn Bateman        | <a href="mailto:dawn.bateman@sbcglobal.net">dawn.bateman@sbcglobal.net</a><br>530-273-6471 |
| Lesley Champlin     | <a href="mailto:lesleyp723@hotmail.com">lesleyp723@hotmail.com</a><br>805-403-5340         |
| Kern Hildebrand     | <a href="mailto:khildebrand13@gmail.com">khildebrand13@gmail.com</a><br>925-818-3758       |

## Climate Change

### **Tabling for Planet Earth**

*By Bob Miller*

Climate Change is one of the UUCM Social Justice Proposed Task Forces. Members of the task force have been working closely with the CA Nevada County Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby in support of H.R. 763 – "The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act."

The Citizens' Climate Lobby seeks to lobby Members of Congress in support of the bill. Each chapter focuses on recruiting members within a congressional district. They also encourage members to write constituent letters to their members of congress.

Politicians respond to numbers. Around 300,000 people voted in the last election for the representative for the California 1st District. Most of us live in that district. Ten enthusiastic climate change advocates in Grass Valley are irrelevant. We need 1,000,000 or more committed climate advocates in our district.

We have been "tabling" to find those advocates. We were at the Banner Grange Seed Exchange, the Climate Action Forum and the Home and Garden Show in the Nevada County Fairgrounds. Our tablers included Bob Branstrom, Ginny Hoyt, Keith Johnson, Carol Kuczora, Bob Miller, Shannon and Andy Dooley-Miller and Anita Wald-Tuttle.

We need you to join the Citizens' Climate Lobby. Visit [www.citizensclimatelobby.org](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org), learn about the bill and "Join CCL" (Green button at the top right.) Otherwise call Elon and buy one-way tickets to Mars for your grand-kids.

For more information, please contact Bob Miller at: [bob@sierramiller.com](mailto:bob@sierramiller.com)

*Below, see Ginny and Andy soliciiting one enthusiastic supporter at the Fair Grounds::*



# Social Justice News and Activities

## Social Justice News

*By Stu Chuang Matthews, Chair, Social Justice Team*

Please join us for our monthly Social Justice Nights on the second Thursday at 5:30 PM where we present a topic we are concerned about and share a meal of pizza. Watch for announcements in the eChalice for current information.

For more information, or to get involved directly with the Social Justice Team, please contact Stu Matthews at [stu@fourmajor.com](mailto:stu@fourmajor.com) or 530-362-8456

## Local Volunteer Opportunities

*By Keith Johnson, Member, Social Justice Team*

The Social Justice Team encourages all members and friends to volunteer for justice work with local non-profit organizations. UUCM'ers are already doing outstanding work for the groups listed below. Following are descriptions of each group and volunteer help that is needed. If you are moved to do so, please reach out to the designated UUCM contact person to volunteer. They 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 Team, please contact team 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. Sammie's Friends has a great foster program, and adoptions are up. They help with medical needs and food for pets whose caretakers can't afford it. All three of these organizations need help feeding, cleaning, walking, and socializing with animals. Contact Carol Hyndman (530-477-0693).

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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

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 Citizens 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 IN NEED

*By Carol Hyndman, Member, Social Justice Team*

Please remember donations for Nevada County Pets in Need will be collected on the first Sunday of each month when food donations are collected for the Interfaith Food Ministry. Nevada County Pets in Need serves not only pets of the homeless but also pets of lower income people. Contact Carol Hyndman (530-477-0693).





# Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

## May Women's Circle & Potluck: MONDAY, MAY 13, 6:00 PM at UUCM

### SWAP AND SNACK!

Please bring nutritious finger food snacks to share... we'll set it up in the kitchen or the library and we can nibble at will. We won't have an official meal as it cuts into our "shopping time."

Bring clothing and accessories which you are ready to part with and take home whatever appeals to you. It's a way to freshen up our wardrobes without spending a penny. Anything left over will go to the UUCM yard sale or a local charity shop.

If you have a clothing rack or any extra hangers or paper or plastic bags, let Lesley know. We will be setting up from 2-6:00 PM on Monday. Your donations can be brought to the church on Sunday, May 12 -- leave them in the childcare room next to the kitchen after the second service, or bring them between 2-3:00 PM on Monday the 13th.

We need help during those hours to get set up, and afterward to box up what's left. We have a few volunteers, but it's a big job so if you want to help, let Lesley Champlin know.

Lesley Champlin's cell phone: 805-403-5340  
email: [lesleyp723@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleyp723@hotmail.com)

A reminder email will go out closer to the date for RSVPs of who is coming and what snack item you plan to bring so we don't get too many duplicates.

All UUCM women (and friends!) are invited to any Women's Circle gathering. If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please send an email to Carol Fulkerson at: [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) and she will add you. Then you'll get monthly updates and reminders of our upcoming meetings.

## 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](mailto:shelley10493@gmail.com).

## UUCM Walking Group News

By Theresa Houtman

Join intrepid walkers at 8:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Houtmans', 418 Chapel, Grass Valley. We walk a gentle two miles and then have coffee, conversation and treats. Cat-friendly dogs on leashes are welcome. Please contact Theresa Houtman (530) 277-9294 to confirm.

## Singing Meditation

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7-8:30 PM

Singing Meditation is an interfaith spiritual practice in which singing and shared silence alternate in a deepening rhythm. The songs and chants are drawn from a variety of religious traditions and participants are invited to bring song ideas. The music is taught as we go.

The Singing Meditation Circle is open to all. We will be glad for your presence, your voice, your heart, your spirit.

## Men's Groups

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00 in the Channing Room, and on Thursday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00 at Summer Thymes, (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 TO  
11:25 AM

IN THE ANTHONY ROOM ANNEX

Join us in the cozy and intimate "library annex" between the two services at 10:50 AM. If you would like a safe, confidential place to share your feelings about life's challenges and give support to others, this group should be a good fit for you.

Facilitators: Janet Bullock (530-477-8760, [janetbullock41@gmail.com](mailto:janetbullock41@gmail.com)), Corrie Silva, and Tom Wernigg



A few of the beautiful eggs decorated at the Easter Egg Dyeing Party at UUCM on Friday, April 19th. More photos on page 10.

## Family Ministry Update for May

By René Wiley, Family Ministry Co-Chair

The 2nd Annual Easter Egg Dyeing party was a great success! There were 20 participants, most with indelibly stained fingers from the many different and colorful dyeing techniques. The natural dyes were surprisingly bright, golden, and subtle - thank you, Anita Wald-Tuttle! We had a brilliant good time together with ages ranging from 3 to ...much older than that!

The most unique hunt in town was reported by the Union to be UUCM's Easter Can Hunt! At least a bushel of pet food and toys were donated to beloved homeless pets with our community partner, Nevada County Pets in Need. Thank you to the congregation and friends for donations and special thanks to Carol Hyndman, for her dedication and delivery to our friends, the animals. The children took home a spring flower or strawberry plant for their gardens.

Popcorn anyone? Watch for the next UUCM Inter-Gen Family Movie in the theme of Curiosity to be announced soon!

In Religious Education, we are excited about the four rich angles we're taking on Curiosity this month:

- Session 1. Curiosity and Understanding
- Session 2. Curiosity and Empathy
- Session 3. Curiosity and Imagination
- Session 4. Curiosity and Humility

Session 3 on "Curiosity and Imagination" will have many fun & exciting scientific experiments. We can't wait! Curiosity promises to be one of the most favorite themes of the year so far. Your curiosity is sure to be piqued with the weekly reveal of "What's in the Wonderbox?"

THIS SUMMER! Invite your friends! Harry Potter will take us into a magical exploration of UU values! We announce that Aiden McCarthy will be our wizard leader for this special summer programming beginning in June. Ages 5 - 12ish.



# UUCM Family Ministry



**6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited  
to the Monthly**

## UUCM YOUTH BRUNCH BUNCH

**WHEN:**

Second Sunday of each month

**WHERE:**

Meet in the UUCM Entry at 10:25 AM

**WHAT:**

Walk to Summer Thymes 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 Mystery, Trust, Beauty & More

**...and have FUN!**

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



## Announcing Family Camp!

### CAMP TWO OF THE MENDOCINO WOODLANDS

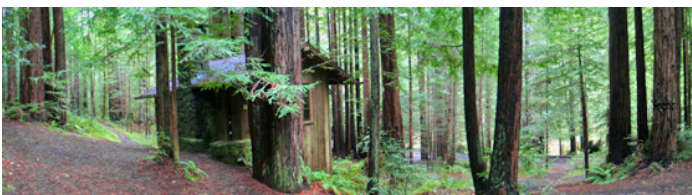
Week One: July 7-13, 2019

Week Two: July 14-20, 2019

At the end of the road, deep in the Redwood forest, by the Little North Fork of the Big River, is a place to go... where people are happy to welcome you for who you are, not what you are... where you are encouraged to be and let be... where you are included in the Family, not despite who you are, but because of who you are... a place where it is safe for kids to be kids. It's a mystical place, where the simplest things are spiritual: dancing, singing, drumming, walking, and talking. Once you've been to Family Camp, you'll wonder what you did without it. It is a wonderful respite in your busy life, whether you can come for one week or two, you owe it to yourself and your family to do it this year.

Each week consists of four days of daily activities and child care, one free day (no activities planned), and a whole week's worth of delicious meals and evening activities!

<http://www.ncuucc.org/calendar/family-camp/>



If you have questions, comments, or suggestions regarding UUCM's Family Ministry, please email us at: [education@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:education@uugrassvalley.org)

# Adult Religious Exploration

...Cultivating our spiritual, emotional and intellectual strength to create a world more compassionate, sustainable and just.



## Adult RE Classes for May

### 'WHITE FRAGILITY' BOOK STUDY

THREE SESSIONS: MAY 8, 15 AND 29  
1-3 PM OR 6:30 -8:30 PM

The Social Justice Task Force, "Challenging White Privilege," is offering a 3-session book study on Dr. Robin DiAngelo's *'White Fragility'-Why It Is So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism?* This study is designed for white people to talk about what it means to be white and how we can begin to see our privilege and fragility. Our Task Force is in discussion with Robin DiAngelo to come to Grass Valley in the fall for a presentation. She will also be at UUA General Assembly in June.

The book is only 145 pages and can be purchased on-line. A few copies will be made available in the UUCM Library. Group size is limited to 6-8 people with one three-session class offered on May 8, 15, and 29 from 1:00-3:00 PM. For those who prefer evening sessions, the same class will be offered on May 8, 15, and 29 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Additional three-session classes can be offered if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Gwen Eymann at (530) 274-7965 or Janet Dunstan at (530) 205-8154 to reserve your space.

### DEMENTIA: MYTHS AND REALITIES

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1-3 PM

Learn what is happening in the Alzheimer's or dementia brain. Once we understand why the changes are occurring, we can learn how best to respond to the disease and associated behaviors. Presented by Renée Chevraux, MSW.

Please sign up with our administrator, Carol Fulkerson ([admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) or 274-1675).

### NEW BOOK GROUP

STARTING IN MAY - DATE AND TIME TBA

If you have longed for a book group, we have great news for you. Adult RE will be sponsoring a group that will dip into both fiction and non-fiction for in-depth discussion. This group will be facilitated by Theresa Houtman and Karyn Packard. You'll hear more details as the group evolves.

### SECOND SUNDAY SPIRITUAL PRACTICES SAMPLER

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 1:30-2:30 PM

Our Spiritual Practices Samplers are held the second Sunday of each month, after the Soup Potluck, from 1:30-2:30. They are designed to offer a hands-on introduction to various spiritual practices that members and friends find meaningful and sustaining.

In *Outside Lies Magic*, John R. Stilgoe invites our awareness of ordinary surroundings, "awareness that builds into mindfulness, into the enduring pleasures of noticing and thinking about what one notices." Stilgoe encourages us to widen our angle of vision, to step sideways and look at something seemingly familiar, to walk a few paces and see something utterly new.

In this session, we will go outside for a time (not far), tune in our available senses, open ourselves to the possibility of seeing, hearing or feeling something utterly new, take time to capture our thoughts and experience, and then share our perceptions with each other.

## Coming in June

### FIVE WISHES – ADVANCED DIRECTIVE CLASS

WITH REV. KARYN PACKARD AND ELIZABETH FRIES PA-C  
SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1-5PM

Whether you have already completed an advanced directive, are in the process, or haven't begun, this is your opportunity to address this important task. Join Rev. Karyn Packard and Physician Assistant Elizabeth Fries for an afternoon that allows you the opportunity to get this important document completed. Both these women have extensive experience in end-of-life decision-making and are able to answer your questions and guide you in completion. As the "witness" required on the document cannot be someone who would benefit from your estate or is involved in your healthcare, we will be able to witness your signatures, in order to have legal documents to take home with you.

## May Soul Matters Reflections

FROM THE SOUL MATTERS

ORGANIZATION

### What Does It Mean to be a People of Curiosity?

UU minister, Victoria Safford, speaks of curiosity using the metaphor of perception and sight. She writes,

“To see, simply to look and to see, is an ethical act and intentional choice; to see, with open eyes, is a spiritual practice and thus a risk, for it can open you to ways of knowing the world and loving it that will

lead to inevitable consequences. The awakened eye is a conscious eye, a willful eye, and brave, because to see things as they are, each in its own truth, will make you very vulnerable.”

Consequences. I’m not sure I’ve ever thought of curiosity in terms of consequences but I think Safford’s got it right. There is a type of curiosity that is about enjoyment and adventure. It invites us to experience life as a playground. However, there is another type of curiosity that leads to consequences, that changes us. This kind of curiosity is about more than enjoyment. Indeed, it’s the kind that drives us past enjoyment and comfort. It’s not about enriching oneself; it’s about altering oneself.

This is the type of curiosity we Unitarians Universalists have fallen in love with—one might even say, put our “faith” in.

Just think of how we talk about our dances with curiosity. We don’t just tell stories about barraging our poor Sunday School teachers with “Why?!” and “Who says?!”; we tell stories of doing it until we were kicked out of the class. We don’t just talk about being open-minded; we talk about how our open-mindedness led us to leave home and family and walk a lonelier path than we wanted. And lately, many of us have leaned into the hard work of being curious about our role in upholding institutional racism and structures of white supremacy, none of which is just about “learning interesting new things.”

The point of all these stories is that, as hard as these curious paths are, we are grateful for them. We don’t want curiosity to just be fun or interesting. We want it to make us anew.

In other words, the message of our faith is not simply “Be curious!” It’s “Be curious until there are consequences!”

It’s fine to be inquisitive for the fun of it but at another level, we’re called to remember that curiosity is not game. Well, maybe it’s the greatest game: the one that drives us to constantly become more, for our sakes and for the sake of others.

Rev. Scott Tayler



## Soul Matters

### THEMES FOR 2018-19:

May:

Curiosity

June:

Beauty

# May 2019 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
<b>MAY 2019</b>			
1	Wednesday	8:30 AM 10:30 AM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Youth Music (Beginners) Choir
2	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group at Summer Thyme's Bkry Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans') Shared Pulpit Singing Meditation Circle
4	Saturday	9:30 AM	Visioning Workshop
5	Sunday	First Sunday: Bring Food for People/Pets 9:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:45 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM	Full Community Sunday Service Social Time Meet the Minister Drop-in Support Circle Full Community Sunday Service
6	Monday	6:30 PM	Soul Matters Exploratorium
7	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans') Morning Meditation Welcoming & Membership Team Mtg Caring Committee Meeting
8	Wednesday	8:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM 4:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep White Fragility Book Study Youth Music (Beginners) Finance Committee Meeting White Fragility Book Study Choir
9	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	Men's Group at Summer Thyme's Bkry Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans') Writers' Group Social Justice Night
11	Saturday	1:00 PM	Adult RE Workshop - Dementia: Myths and Realities
12	Sunday	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:25 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM 1:30 PM	Sunday Service Classes for Children Brunch Bunch for Youth Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Second Sunday Salad/Soup Potluck Spiritual Practices Sampler
13	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Swap & Snacks
14	Tuesday	9:00 AM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM	Morning Meditation Stewardship Committee Meeting Challenging White Privilege

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
15	Wednesday	8:30 AM 12:30 PM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group White Fragility Book Study Youth Music (Beginners) Social Justice Committee Meeting White Fragility Book Study Choir
15	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 12:00 PM 5:15 PM	Men's Group at Summer Thyme's Bkry Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans') Shared Pulpit Board of Trustees Meeting
17	Friday	4:00 PM	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
18	Saturday	8:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Party
19	Sunday	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 12:45 PM	Sunday Service Classes for Children Classes for Youth Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Family Ministry Team Meeting
21	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans') Morning Meditation UUCM Nisenan Project
22	Wednesday	8:30 AM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Youth Music (Beginners) Choir
23	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 5:00 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group at Summer Thyme's Bkry Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans') Writers' Group Vegan Potluck and Presentation Worship Team Meeting
26	Sunday	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM	Sunday Service Classes for Children Classes for Youth Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service
28	Tuesday	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans') Morning Meditation Challenging White Privilege
29	Wednesday	8:30 AM 12:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM	Men's Group White Fragility Book Study Youth Music (Beginners) White Fragility Book Study
30	Thursday	8:30 AM 8:30 AM 12:00 PM	Men's Group at Summer Thyme's Bkry Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans') Shared Pulpit
31	Friday	4:00 PM	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place

