

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

September 2019

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

Social hour is between the two services; you may 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.

What Does it Mean to be a People of Expectation?

As the rhythm of the congregation year begins in earnest, we ask, "How do expectations matter – in our personal lives, our political lives, our spiritual lives, and our shared life in this congregation and UU tradition?"

Our Soul Matters authors invite very personal reflection: "What are your expectations of this sacred but stormy sea in which we all swim? Do you have faith that this wildly unpredictable life of ours won't lead you astray? When your expectations get turned on their heads, do you see that as a threat or are you willing to lean in? Are you willing to let life's currents lead you where they will?"

Sept. 1 **Seven Reasons (and counting) NOT to be a Unitarian Universalist**
Rev. Kevin and Co., Allison Rivers Samson, WA

This Labor Day weekend, we draw the threads of our summer Seven Principles series together and ask, "Where do we go with these Principles now?" *Please bring food to donate to IFM & Pets in Need. Special Sundaes refreshments between services.*

Sept. 8 **I Am That I Am**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Gail Johnson Vaughan, WA

How have you come to know who you are? Do you have expectations of yourself? Where do they come from? Do they match the essence of who you truly are? How do others' expectations of you play out in your life? And do expectations you hold of others give them room for their essences to shine? This service invites awareness of how expectations impact our personal lives and relationships, and the possibility of opening doors to loosen our grip on expectations that do not serve us. *Salad Lunch at 12:30 PM*

Sept. 15 **Got Here as Soon as I Could**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and company

We live in challenging times where our expectations/hopes/fears for our country are ignited. How do our individual and collective

expectations bring us closer to our ideals for our nation? How do they lead us further from those ideals? This service invites us to empower positive change by examining, and perhaps altering, our expectations and actions.

Sept. 22 **Beyond Optimism**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

"The great test of our Unitarian Universalist faith is not whether we believe we can bend the [moral arc of the universe toward justice], but how we are when the bending looks oh so differently from what we expected," writes the Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen. Although many ideas in our tradition have evolved over time, we UUs hold on passionately, maybe even desperately, to belief in the "progress of [hu]mankind onward and upward forever." Perhaps there is a more true and more resilient approach available to us.

Sept. 29 **Something's Coming**
Members and Friends of UUCM

The impact of expectations on each of our lives is as diverse as the paths on which those expectations have led each of us. This service weaves together some of those impacts through the voices of our members in reflections, poetry, and song.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Item	Page
Upcoming Services.....	1
From Rev. Kevin Tarsa.....	2
Board of Trustees.....	3
Stewardship.....	4
Pass the Plate.....	4
Hospitality and "Just Coffee" Orders.....	4
Building and Grounds.....	5
Caring Team.....	5
Fire Preparedness.....	6
Climate Task Force.....	6
Social Justice News & Activities.....	7
Community Connections - Social & Spiritual.....	8
UUCM Family Ministry.....	9
Soul Matters.....	10
Adult Religious Exploration/Book Groups.....	11
Monthly Calendar.....	12
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours.....	13



Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

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 or (231) 883-1058

What does it mean to be a people of expectation?

Buddhist traditions point out the tyrannical hold that expectations have on most of us and seek to help us release our attachment to our expectations. And yet, envisioning a desired future seems key to making progress toward the well-being of our selves and the world. How do we hold out possibilities and “create,” move toward, or even hope for “a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just” without getting tangled in constricting expectations?

Other sources of insight teach that minding and mining our expectations consciously is the primary work at hand – that our conscious and unconscious expectations manifest in reality, with or without our awareness and effort.

Our expectations – and our awareness of them – will be our dance partner this month as we head into the rhythms of the new congregation year.



We’ll dance with expectation to the music of our inner world, our outer world, the world of our religious tradition and in response to some of your voices. Then, in a perfect segue, we’ll move from the theme of “expectation,” in September, to the theme of “belonging,” in October.

Meanwhile, we’ll be dancing with our various expectations for the new UUCM year:

The **Ministry Council**, made up of leaders of the various ministry teams and led by the minister with wonderful co-chairs Dennis Weiher and Lesley Champlin, will kick off the year with a retreat on September 14. The Council, which meets every two months, will inform UUCM’s ministry efforts significantly, guided by the Board’s *Annual Vision of Ministry*, with outreach, newcomer and member integration, and Council strength and effectiveness as top goals for this year. **Soul Matters Circles** will begin in October, with two chances

to first sample a circle in September, and a fall **Men’s Retreat** is being proposed to launch the **Men’s Sharing Circle** for this year.

In September we’ll hold a half-day session for people considering **membership** in UUCM, and in October we’ll offer **Starting Point**, a rich, 4-session small group experience designed for those who want to know more about UUism and UUCM as well as for those who want to renew their connection to this community. Clair Miller has Circle Super planning up and running – delicious chances to connect over a potluck meal in someone’s home.

Watch for news of a Welcomer/Greeter Orientation, information about Volunteer opportunities and Teams and Committees, the Constitution Day Parade, the SYRCL river cleanup, a congregation vote to endorse the Justice task forces and approve some bylaw changes, justice nights, an interfaith peace march, and a fall concert early in November.

Whew. What was I saying about expectations?

May we dance with our expectations meaningfully this month, growing in personal awareness, deepening our connections to each other, and strengthening this community for the journey ahead.

– Rev. Kevin



Your Board of Trustees

*Rev. Karyn Packard
President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

I come to all of you filled with such gratitude for our Board of Trustees. When we sat together and I looked around the table, I realized what a blessing each person was to UUCM and to me as your current President. We are all grateful for the opportunity to serve. We love UUCM and believe in its positioning as a change agent in our community and in our world.

Your BOT is meeting at a new time, 2:30PM, the third Thursday of the month. Our last meeting was on August 15. Everyone was in attendance. As we begin to work together, I find myself so excited to have such an outstanding team. One of the ways in which we will be able to complete our extensive work in a timely fashion is to divide it. By doing research, editing, evaluating, etc. away from the BOT meeting, we can provide more time for decision-making, problem-solving and visioning in our scheduled meeting times. To that end, two of our members will be giving you an update on their responsibilities in this article. In the future, you will also hear from others about their areas of special interest. Members of the board may be approaching you to assist in specific projects. Join us in making UUCM the best it can be. Commitment is contagious!

First, an update on our finances from Treasurer, Joel Houtman. I have nicknamed him MM, "Money Man". He brings us current financial reporting. From Joel:

Treasurer's Update

I have been on the job as Treasurer for about six weeks now. I want to express my appreciation for those who have been patient with me during this period of learning and my gratitude to Charlie Zimmerman for helping me get started.

I have collaborated with Charlie (outgoing treasurer) and Bob P (Finance committee chair) to create the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 financial report. We are pleased to report that the year ended with a surplus. This was due to a combination of higher pledge payments than expected, and not using the money originally budgeted for a Director of Religious Education. Further, most committees and teams spent somewhat less than projected.

We have had a good month of July. We received far more pledges than one would normally expect because many people pay pledges in advance for the new Fiscal Year. So, we started the year with a bump.

Both the year-end report and the July report are attachments to the August Board minutes.

If there are any questions about these reports, call me at 530-273-2925 or email Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org

*Treasuring Every Moment,
Joel Houtman*

Janet Dunstan has agreed to head up our new BOT committee "Governance." It is our intention to edit/update all pertinent documents for our Church to run smoothly. In preparation, a new handbook has been created with indications made for which documents need to be evaluated for accuracy or created outright as the case might be. We believe that if our paperwork is in order and we know where to find it, we will be more effective and efficient. These words from Chair Janet:

Governance Committee Formation

Under direction of the Board, this Committee recommends revisions and writes Board policies and modifications to bylaws through collaboration with those affected, maintains Board position descriptions, and could assist the Minister and Ministry Teams in writing job descriptions. These would be available to the nominating committee in their search for appropriate candidates. The Governance Committee would be 3-4 UUCM members and a Board member as liaison.

This is an opportunity to use your computer knowledge, communication skills, ability to work with others, and to demonstrate your willingness to learn and develop new skills. Your time commitment would be approximately 3-5 hours per month, including monthly meetings. While there are quite a few documents in the queue at this time, that number will be reduced through this process.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping. It would be appreciated and would benefit the whole church in so many ways. My contact information is: 530-205-8154 or janetdunstan@gmail.com.

*Namaste,
Janet Dunstan*

As you can see, we are hard at work. Please feel free to come to our meetings or to bring something to the attention of any of the board members. We work for each of you.

*Blessings,
- Rev. Karyn Packard*

Stewardship

Stewardship: What's New?

By Keith Johnson, Chair, Stewardship Team

What's new with the Stewardship Team? Two things come to mind. First, we will be hosting small group meetings on November 3, 17, and 24. The meetings will take place at church after the second service. The purpose of the meetings is twofold: 1) promote a sense of community in an informal setting, and 2) receive input to assist the Stewardship Team in the development of a case statement.

A case statement is the written justification for the pledge campaign to be conducted next spring. It identifies the goals that will be accomplished when the pledges are received. An effective case statement answers several questions, including the following:

- *What will be different when our financial goals are attained?*
- *What congregational programs will be enhanced?*
- *What new initiatives will begin?*

We need your help to prepare the case statement. Along with the Board of Trustees and the Ministry Council, we seek answers to the above questions and your perspective on the future of UUCM. How can we fulfill our mission to create a more compassionate, sustainable, and just world? What financial expenditures will help us achieve our goals? Please watch for your invitation coming soon, and plan to bring your ideas to the small group meeting that you attend.

Secondly, the Stewardship Team is facilitating an Adult R.E. class with Reverend Kevin this fall. The course curriculum was produced by the UUA and affirms that every person is a steward. This four session class aims to empower all who participate to be stewards of self, family, community, congregation, and the Unitarian Universalist faith. Sound interesting? Please join us – class dates and times have not been finalized but will probably be in late October and early November. See you there!

September Pass the Plate

Our September Pass-the-Plate recipient is **California Care Force**, a group of medical professionals, community leaders, and engaged citizens who provide free medical, dental and vision care to those in need at 2- or 3-day temporary clinics across California.

California Care Force places no restrictions on who receives services based on income, employment, age, family size, or immigration status. They do not require insurance or ID to serve patients, and all services are provided at absolutely no cost to patients.

Since 2011, over 15,000 volunteers have provided health services to over 32,000 individuals, delivering \$14,000,000 worth of care.

Hospitality Team

By Marilyn Young, Coordinator, UUCM Hospitality Hour

Every Sunday, everyone is welcome to enjoy snacks and refreshments, along with socializing, between the two services from 10:30 until 11:20 AM in the Alcott and Channing Rooms.

This month's schedule for contributing snacks:

September 1 - last names beginning with A to E

September 8 - last names beginning with F to J

Also - Salad Lunch at 12:30 on September 8 - all are welcome (Salad, Bread & Butter, Cookies...please contribute if you can!)

September 15 - last names beginning with K to R

September 22 - last names beginning with S to Z

September 29 - 5th Sunday -- Everyone is ON!

If you plan to bring a snack or a Second Sunday Salad Lunch contribution, please let Marilyn Young know. We especially appreciate healthy snacks, and at least one gluten-free baked offering. (MarilynY04@gmail.com).



ORGANIC SHADE-GROWN FAIR
TRADE COFFEE AVAILABLE

By Joyce Banzhaf

Consider buying *Just Coffee*, the organic, fair-trade coffee you've been sampling at the Coffee Hour the past month or two. If you've enjoyed it, here's how to get it for yourself:

You may order coffee by emailing me at joycebanzhaf@yahoo.com and asking for Robusta (high caffeine), Arabica Sweet, or Decaf. Also, please specify 1 or 5 pounds, regular or dark roast, whole beans or ground. Coffee is \$9 for a one pound bag, and \$37 for a five pound bag. Decaf is \$10 for one pound, and \$42 for five pounds. Once I get 30 pounds of orders, I will send in the order. Thanks for supporting organic, shade-grown coffee where all profit goes to the coop workers in Mexico.

Building and Grounds

Cool Weather is Welcome Relief

By Wally Holtan, Chair, Building and Grounds Team

Thankfully, we were blessed with a cooler work day this month. This allowed our volunteers to concentrate on cleaning our garden and front area. Kern and Anita picked up enough pine cones to fill two barrels. Connie, Gwen, Theresa, Bob Packard, and Martha Turner worked on the bushes along the Walsh street side, the garage parking area, and on the butterfly garden in the backyard. Once Kern finished the front area, he was able to mow down the remaining poppies in the backyard garden. Meanwhile, Joel, with some help from George Dunstan, finished putting up the door to the back stairs going up to the roof. That area is now secured with a locked door and we will see whether it succeeds in being a deterrent to people using our roof as a sleeping area. Paul Elias volunteered to apply the primer coat of paint to our newly installed back door.

Inside the church, Marilyn Young, Elizabeth Bloom and her friend Tasha cleaned and prepared the kitchen for May Lawrence's upcoming memorial reception. George Dunstan covered some exposed electrical wires in the sanctuary and finished up some patch work from a prior project while Anita cleaned up some paint splatter on some of the railings and Keith vacuumed the chairs. What a productive day we had! Thank you all for volunteering your time.

Next month our workday will be on a different date than usual. I will let everyone know the new date as soon as I have it. As always, if you are looking for a way to volunteer at UUCM and like working on projects, please, consider volunteering for a UUCM workday. It is a great place to meet people and do something for our wonderful community.



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. There are great opportunities to live our UU principles in the care for ourselves and our UUCM community.

We mourn the loss of beloved Cynthia Schuetz on July 30 and we hold Jim Perkins in our hearts as he begins to navigate his life without his beloved wife. There will be a celebration of life for Cynthia on September 21 at 1:00 PM at the Grass Valley United Methodist Church, located next door to UUCM.

Anne Lyon is recovering from surgery. She is doing well and is now able to drive. She appreciates all the support she has received from her UUCM community and looks forward to re-engaging in activities soon.

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 ways you can participate and help serve this wonderful community.

Contact: Gwen Eymann (530) 274-7965,
or email: caring@uugrassvalley.org

CARING TEAM MEMBERS:

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

Fire Preparedness

How is YOUR Fire Plan Coming?

By Suzanne Ferroggiaro, Member

Rob and I felt urgency to prepare our Fire Plan because multiple family members were in 2017 Sonoma County fires. For Nevada County, it's not IF, it's WHEN. For multiple reasons, wildfire frequency and intensity has increased, so we must intensify our preparation. City homes are no safer than country homes. Our neighborhood formed a Fire Wise Community. I became a certified Defensible Space Advisor. Here are some suggestions I learned from our Fire Plan Prep...

- Take responsibility for your own safety and make a time commitment NOW to work on your Fire Plan, little by little; continue adjusting each year by June. Start with one step tomorrow.
- Excellent materials can be collected, (and adapted to your own needs), from Fire Safe Council, Cal Fire, Nevada County Office of Emergency Services and YubaNet (archives of weekly steps to take and town hall meetings).
- Prepare for yourself and your pets first; then harden your home; then your yard; then your neighborhood.
- Prepare GO Bags and collect valuables; keep it close to your bed.
- Make your continuous priority "To Do" list based on amount of time before evacuation so you don't have to think when stressed. (If you have 5 minutes, do steps #1-6; 10-60 minutes, do steps #7-14, etc.) Put copies of the list in your Go Bags, cars, and near your front door.
- During fire season: keep car at least half full of gas, keep plenty of cash in wallet, keep phones/computers/chargers near door at night; be aware of your surroundings/ Red Flag Warnings/planes overhead; check YubaNet "Happening Now" and KVMR 89.5FM for current information; keep in touch with your neighbors.
- Plan several evacuation routes; be aware/ready to evacuate; consider evacuating during Red Flag Warning BEFORE evacuation notice so can you get out before traffic bottlenecks.
- Practice evacuating; adjust plan as needed.
- Contact Fire Safe Council if you'd like a Defensible Space Advisory Visit; no legalities, only educational.

I'm happy to share our Fire Plan, answer any questions and discuss in more detail if you'd like. You can contact me at: suzanneferro17@gmail.com or 530-477-5344



Climate Task Force



UUCM Searching to Identify Role to Avert the Climate Crisis

By Bob Miller, Coordinator, UUCM Climate Task Force

The August Social Justice night was dedicated to a review of the Climate Task Force. We attempted to answer the question: How can UUCM effectively support legislation to solve the climate crisis?

We talked about the efforts of UUCM members to support the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend act sponsored by the Citizens' Climate Lobby. UUCM members have made a significant contribution by tabling at locations and events around Grass Valley.

We discussed how to enhance the contribution of UUCM members. We decided on three action items:

- Determine if there is interest in our youth and families to work on this initiative
- Work to better integrate the Climate Task Force in the life of UUCM
- Investigate the potential for an interfaith event dedicated to the climate crisis

We returned to the question "Can (or how can) UUCM effectively support legislation to solve the climate crisis?" The answer was "maybe" - somewhat influenced by the attendance at the meeting. Only seven people attended. We had hoped for more. On the other hand, 37 members of UUCM have joined Citizens Climate Lobby.

This is a great opportunity for UUCM.

Social Justice News and Activities

Social Justice News

By Steve Temple, Chair, Social Justice Team

For more information, or to get involved directly with the Social Justice Team, please contact Steve Temple at srtemple@ucdavis.edu or 530-220-0995.

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 Steve Temple (530-220-0995).

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 11:00 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 three times per week to those in need. Currently they need both drivers and packers. Contact Anne Lyon (619-933-1618).

JOIN THE HUNGER RUN FOR INTERFAITH FOOD MINISTRY!

Help raise funds for IFM by participating in the annual Hunger Run on September 29. The run will start at the Alta Sierra Country Club at 8:00 AM and finish between 10:30 - 11:00 AM. There will be both a 5K and 10K course. Click link for more info: <http://www.interfaithfoodministry.org/store/c4/HungerRun-ClickonImageToRegister.html>

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).



YUBA CLEANUP WITH SYRCL ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

The 22nd annual SYRCL cleanup will take place on Saturday, September 21. As in past years, UUCM volunteers will work together at one site. Children accompanied by a parent are welcome. We have been assigned a Wolf Creek location in south Grass Valley, with Josie Crawford from the Wolf Creek Community Alliance as our site supervisor. Let's make this an enjoyable event (again). We'll be meeting at the church at 8AM to share coffee and bagels and carpool to the site. If you are interested in this fun and worthwhile event, please contact Keith Johnson at kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com or 530-265-0277.

Please note that Cynthia Schuetz's Celebration of Life is at 1PM on the same date. The Cleanup is over by about noon or sooner, so there is time to participate in the cleanup and attend the Celebration of Life.

Community Connections – Social & Spiritual Activities

Humanist Discussion Group

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
AT 10:30 AM

By George Dunstan



The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, September 4th at 10:30 at UUCM. The topic for September is about our upcoming general election and elections in general. How do humanists gauge candidates? Which candidate is "the most Humanist"? I have not found any articles addressing this general topic but if any of you do, please share them with the group. As always, I expect that our varied experiences and thoughts on this topic will provide for an interesting and informative discussion. I look forward to seeing you on September 4th.

For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan: 530-205-8159 or gvgeode@gmail.com.

Meditation Group

Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM, 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.

UUCM Walking Group

By Theresa Houtman

After a short hiatus, come join intrepid walkers at 8:00 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting September 17th 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, and your spirit.

Women's Circle in September: Jewelry Craft Night

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019, 6 PM

This month the UU Women's Circle will be meeting at UUCM for a potluck, followed by making either a pair of earrings or a stamped pendant or bracelet. You will need some supplies to make the earrings or pendant which are available locally from Beads Galore or Ben Franklin. (Of course, you can bring your own craft project if this does not appeal to you.)

SUPPLY LIST

Earrings

2 Earring Wire Posts
2 Ear Wires (for pierced ears or non-pierced ears)
Assorted beads that will be strung on the wire post
2 of each bead so the earrings will match

Pendant

You'll need some copper or aluminum shapes for stamping.

If you can't get the supplies yourself, Robin will put together some kits which you can purchase. You will need to let her know in advance. rhstarbird@gmail.com

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 contact Kathryn Young, (kathryneyounguu@gmail.com) or send an email to Carol Fulkerson at: admin@uugrassvalley.org and she will add you. Then you'll get monthly updates and reminders of our upcoming meetings.

Men's Groups

On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00 in the Channing Room, and on Thursday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00, 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. The Thursday meeting location has changed as Summer Thymes is closed. To find out where it will be held, please contact Ralph Hitchcock, 530-272-4787.

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: Corrie Silva: (corriesilva@sbcglobal.net or 415-204-7448), Janet Bullock, and Tom Wernigg

UUCM Family Ministry



Family Ministry Update for Fall

By Rene Wiley, Chair, Family Ministry

SUMMER SESSION AT HOGWARTS WRAPS UP

We'll finish with Harry Potter and the Seven Principles on September 8th with a celebratory feast for students in the Great Hall. We extend gratitude to Professor McCarthy (Aiden McCarthy), Professor McGonigal (Linda Siska), and Albus Dumbledore (Ralph Hitchcock) for a magical experience in supporting our values.

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY – THE BIPARTISAN CLIMATE SOLUTION -

As a parent, I'm encouraged that citizens can do something effective about climate change. Of course, kids are citizens, too! Not only that but they are real mountain movers and change makers. UUCM's Social Justice and Family Ministry teams are getting behind bi-partisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Legislation sponsored by the CCL. UUCM members have made a significant contribution by tabling at locations and events around Grass Valley. Imagine what would happen if the kids at UUCM accepted a challenge to sign on more members! Our representatives would take notice! First step, support the bill HR763 at the link, and then report to Bob Miller or Rene Wiley for how to mobilize!

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/energy-innovation-and-carbon-dividend-act/>



OUR WHOLE LIVES SEXUALITY EDUCATION FOR GRADES 7-9 STARTS SEPTEMBER 8

Beginning September 8th from 10:30AM to 12:30 PM. Emily Gallup and Walt O'Maley will lead the 12 OWL sessions until December 15th. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, OWL not only

provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the emotional and social aspects of sexuality. www.uua.org/re/owl/

MORE THAN JUST EDUCATION...

Family Ministry provides much more than religious education classes! We support families in faith formation, create rich inter-generational community, and integrate with UUCM Social Justice projects.



UUCM YOUTH BRUNCH BUNCH

for 6th to 12th Graders will resume in January!



Family Ministry offers many ways to serve the life of the community. Contact Rene Wiley if you'd like to find out more! familyministry@uugrassvalley.org



What Does It Mean to be a People of Expectation?

From the
Soul Matters Authors

*God give us rain when we expect sun.
Give us music when we expect trouble.
Give us tears when we expect breakfast.
Give us dreams when we expect a storm.
Give us a stray dog when we expect congratulations.
God play with us, turn us sideways and around.*
— Michael Leunig

We've all heard the line: "You get what you expect." It's very UU. Liberal religion has always emphasized the tremendous power human beings have to shape their reality. And not just with our actions, but also with our expectations. We know that if you expect people to be good, they will likely rise to the task. If you have faith in your plans, opportunities will likely appear.

And yet shaping reality and trusting reality are two very different things.

Sometimes we UUs become so focused on taking hold of life that we lose the spiritual skill of allowing life to hold us. And there's a lot at stake in being able to do both. We human beings weren't just made to manifest our power; we were born to learn we are part of a greater whole. Yes, we are strong, but we also tire. And so the question at the core of our souls is not just "Can I expect to make an imprint on life?" but "Can I trust life to carry me if I let go and rest?"

Philip Booth puts us in touch with this deep part of ourselves with his poem called [First Lesson](#). In it, he tells his daughter,

*Daughter, believe
me, when you tire on the long thrash
to your island,...
remember... what I told you:
lie gently and wide to the light-year
stars, lie back, and the sea will hold you.*

So how about you? What are your expectations of this sacred but stormy sea in which we all swim? Do you have faith that this wildly unpredictable life of ours won't lead you astray? When your expectations get turned on their heads, do you see

that as a threat or are you willing to lean in? Are you willing to let life's currents lead you where they will?

And notice, this isn't just about whether or not we trust life; it's also about how willing we are to loosen our grip and let our preferred expectations go. Which isn't easy for any of us!

It's why, ultimately, we need prayers like Michael Leunig's as much as we need poems like Philip Booth's. We need life to upend us as much as we need it to hold and carry us. Those holy disruptions force our hand. They break our grip. Only then do we fall. And discover we can count on being caught.

So bring on those unruly dogs and unpredictable tears. Let the rain disrupt our forecasts of sun. May Life indeed turn us sideways and around and lead us unexpectedly but safely home!

Soul Matters Circles About to Begin Again

Soul Matters circles will be starting up again in October, with signups in September. These small groups of 5-8 people commit to meeting once a month October through June to deepen connections – with each other and with our community – through the lens of our monthly themes.

Consider being a part of a circle! You can even try it out first. Sample a Soul Matters Circle with Rev. Kevin and one of our Soul Matters facilitators on Sunday, September 8, from 1:30 to 3:30PM, after our Second Sunday Salad lunch. OR... choose Wednesday, September 25, from 4:30-6:30PM with Rev. Kevin and Lin Jovanovic.

Each month participants receive an electronic packet of resources (or a printed packet, if needed), and each person chooses how much they will explore these resources. The packets offer quotes, poems, suggested practices, questions to consider, book suggestions, music ideas, links to articles, videos and movies and more.

Click [HERE](#) to see the September theme packet on Expectation.

Click [HERE](#) to see the Soul Matters Circle Participant Guide on the UUCM website.

Participating in a Soul Matters Circle is one wonderful way to get connected at UUCM, to get to know a few more people meaningfully and well as you explore your own inner life.

If you have questions, are planning to participate in one of the sample circles, or know already that you are interested in participating in a circle, please contact Soul Matters Circle coordinator Jo Waters, at jowaters@hotmail.com or (530) 414-6941.

Adult Religious Exploration



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

BOOK GROUPS

SECOND WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP - SEPTEMBER 18, 2:00 PM LOCATION VARIES

After a wide-ranging discussion of *Range of Motion*, we chose books for the next three months.

We chose *Blue Highways* for September 18. This masterpiece in American travel writing by William Least Heat-Moon with wit and vivid observations is a delight to read. Perhaps even better than Steinbeck's *Travels With Charley*.

On October 16, we discuss *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. This classic promises to increase our enjoyment of literature with a lively approach to understanding themes, symbols and contexts.

On November 20, *Where the Crawdads Sing* will be appreciated more fully due to our previous month's discussion.

We will not meet in December.

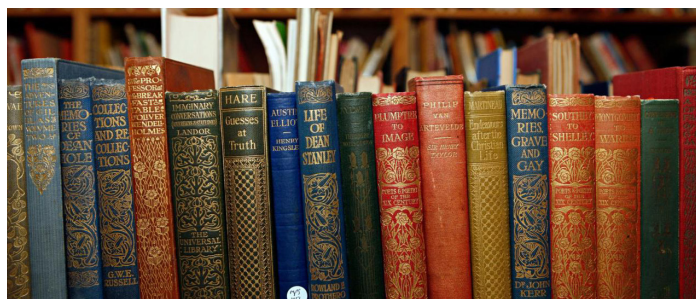
We always welcome new members in both the Wednesday and Sunday groups. You may attend any group that interests you without committing to others. Wednesday group meets at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley at 2 PM. Sunday Group meets 4th Sundays at 1 in the Channing Room at UUCMGV.

Questions? Contact Theresa at (530) 277-9294.

FOURTH SUNDAY BOOK GROUP - SEPTEMBER 22, 1:00 PM CHANNING ROOM

On September 22, at 1, we will discuss Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize winner *The Underground Railroad*.

New members are always welcome. Contact Theresa Houtman, therosa48@sbcglobal.net to RSVP or with questions.



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE SAMPLER

SECOND SUNDAY SPIRITUAL PRACTICES SAMPLER SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1:30-2:30 PM

Our Spiritual Practices Samplers are held the second Sunday of each month, after the Salad Lunch, 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.

Soul Matters Circles as Spiritual Practice. Try it!

Experience a Soul Matters Circle in our Second Sunday Spiritual Practices Sampler series. Join Rev. Kevin and Janet Bullock on Sunday, September 8, from 1:30 to 3:30, after our Second Sunday Salad lunch. Note extended time. (See more on page 10.)

COMING UP:

In October, *Starting Point*, a four-session series for both newcomers and long-timers, shaped by the wisdom and power of small group ministry. It is rooted in awareness that the path of Unitarian Universalism is made rich by the individual journeys of all of us walking together.

In late October and November, we'll start a four-session series exploring the soulful realities of stewardship - *Stewardship: The Joy of Giving*.

Other possibilities are in the works! Watch the eChalice and weekly bulletins for opportunities.

HELP WANTED

UUCM is seeking an Adult Religious Education Chair to work with Rev. Kevin to solicit and communicate learning opportunities in the life of the congregation. Please contact Rev. Kevin if this might just be the perfect role for you right now. And if you have ideas for learning opportunities that you want to experience and/or facilitate, Rev. Kevin will be glad to know that too! minister@uugrassvalley.org.

September 2019 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
SEPTEMBER 2019			
1	Sunday	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM	First Sunday: Bring Food to Donate! Full Community Sunday Service Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Full Community Sunday Service
2	Monday		Labor Day - Admin Office Closed
3	Tuesday	9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Morning Meditation Caring Team Meeting
4	Wednesday	8:30 AM 10:30 AM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Choir
5	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans') Men's Group at TBD Singing Meditation Circle
7	Saturday	10:00 AM 1:00 PM	Sewing Party OWL Parent Orientation Info Meeting
8	Sunday	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM 1:30 PM	Sunday Service Classes for Children OWL Class Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Second Sunday Salad Potluck Spiritual Practices Sampler
9	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Potluck
10	Tuesday	9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Morning Meditation Stewardship Committee Meeting
11	Wednesday	8:30 AM 11:00 AM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep Finance Committee Meeting Choir
12	Thursday	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Men's Group at TBD Writers' Group
14	Saturday		Ministry Council Retreat
15	Sunday	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 12:45 PM 1:00 PM	Sunday Service Classes for Children Nisenan UUCM Project OWL Class Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Family Ministry Team Meeting Cowspiracy Documentary Film

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
17	Tuesday	8:00 AM 9:00 AM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation
18	Wednesday	8:30 AM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Social Justice Committee Meeting Choir
19	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 2:30 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Men's Group at TBD Board of Trustees Meeting
20	Friday	4:00 PM	Dinner Prep at Utah's Place
21	Saturday	8:00 1:00 PM	SYRCL River Clean Up Cynthia Schuetz Celebration of Life
22	Sunday	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM	Sunday Service Classes for Children Nisenan UUCM Project OWL Class Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service Book Group Grass Valley InterFaith March for Peace
24	Tuesday	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Morning Meditation Challenging White Privilege
25	Wednesday	8:30 AM 6:30 PM	Men's Group Choir
26	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 5:00 PM 6:30 PM	Walking Group (Meet at Houtmans) Men's Group at TBD Writers' Group Vegan Potluck Worship Team Meeting
28	Saturday	7:00 AM	UUCM Annual Yard Sale
29	Sunday	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:40 AM 10:50 AM 11:30 AM	Sunday Service Classes for Children OWL Class Social Time Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Service



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 AM and 11:30 AM

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

Tuesday: 11:30 AM - 12:30 AM

Wednesday: 4 - 5:30 PM

Thursday: 11:30 AM - 1 PM

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

minister@uugrassvalley.org

admin@uugrassvalley.org

music@uugrassvalley.org

TELEPHONE

530.274.1661

530.274.1675

530.274.1675

Mountain Chalice Newsletter Submissions are due by the 20th of the month prior to publishing.

Submit by email in Word/Pages format (not as a pdf) or simply by typing directly into an email to:

MtChaliceTeam@uugrassvalley.org

All images should be sent as good quality jpg files separately... not imbedded in your text document.

Volunteer Team Members: Joanne Harris, Pre-Editor; Kathy MacLeod, Final Editor;

Kathryn Young, Design & Layout

Staff Contributors: Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Carol Fulkerson