

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

May 2020

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are held online and via phone – in Stay-at-Home mode - until further notice.

10:30 AM each Sunday.

Religious Explorations for Kids is led on Zoom by Lindsay Duncel at 9:40 AM Sundays.

For access please contact familyministry@uugrassvalley.org

TO JOIN THE SERVICE ON SUNDAYS:

Online via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/746107217>

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 #

Audio by phone: Dial in: 1-669-900-9128

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 #

What Does it Mean to be a People of Thresholds?

May 3 Music for Heart and Soul
Jordan Thomas-Rose and UUCM musicians,
with Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Jordan and our music makers will lead us into our theme of “thresholds” in this mostly-music service, reaching out together from their homes to speak to our hearts and our souls. They have been invited to listen to their own hearts in order to find the words and melodies that might serve people as we enter this new month in our new reality.

May 10 Our Mother-Ship
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

This Mother’s Day Sunday, near the anniversary of the merging of the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association, we look to some of the “mothers” in our tradition for inspiration to cross the thresholds we face today.

May 17 Flower Power
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

In 1923 in Prague, Czechoslovakia, Unitarian minister Norbert Capek began a ritual that eventually crossed the Atlantic to Unitarian and now Unitarian Universalist congregations across the nation. One Sunday each spring, members are invited to bring a flower or branch or twig to create beautiful, varied bouquets symbolizing the unique beauty and spirit that each person brings to shared community.

This stay-at-home year, we invite you to please send us a current

photo of you and yours in one of your home environments, with or without flowers! Please send your photo to UUCMOnline@uugrassvalley.org by May 10.

May 24 The Transcendental in Each of Us
Chuck Champlin, Worship Associate

On this Memorial Day weekend, the day before Ralph Waldo Emerson’s birthday, Chuck Champlin invites us to recognize the legacy we’ve inherited from our Transcendentalist ancestors, and the thresholds they invite us to cross.

May 31 Tongues of Fire
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, followed by UUCM’s Annual Mtg.

As we move to the close of the congregation’s fiscal year, electing new leaders, affirming a new budget, and imagining our future, we’ll draw on the imagery of the “early harvest” from the Jewish celebration of the Feast of Weeks, and the arrival of spirit celebrated in Pentecost, to consider our congregation’s thresholds in these times, and the transformations they invite.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

A People of Thresholds

In our Earth Day service on April 19, Lindsay Dunckel noted that the word she chose for the year in January – sustainability – has taken on new layers of meaning for her as the pandemic shifts the world order and keeps us at home.

For those who are new to the idea, at the threshold of the new year, I invited people to choose a word to dance with, wrestle with, travel with, be with, for the year. A word or idea that had particular resonance for the person. Everyone was invited to write their personal word on a stone or otherwise to keep it in a form they would encounter often.

As with everything about congregational life and this shared religious venture, one of the beauties of a practice like choosing a word for the year is that it offers a lens through which to look at whatever is arising and unfolding in our lives, a lens that can help us see from new angles.

What is your word for the year? (I invite you to choose one now, if you haven't already.) And what happens when you put your word in conversation with a pandemic-circled earth, with how you are feeling, with what you are thinking, with your hopes and expectations and your current realities? What light does it shed on the path ahead...or behind, or beneath you at this moment?

My word for the year is "honesty." With myself, first and foremost.

I know that some of us are worried about parents, children, and other loved ones. I know that some of us are worried about our loss of income and are afraid we might not have the resources we need. I know that some of us are worried about a societal collapse. I know that some of us are preparing for our death, feeling particularly vulnerable to the virus' dangers, expecting that if it reaches us, we are not likely to survive. I know that some of us are allowing our thoughts and

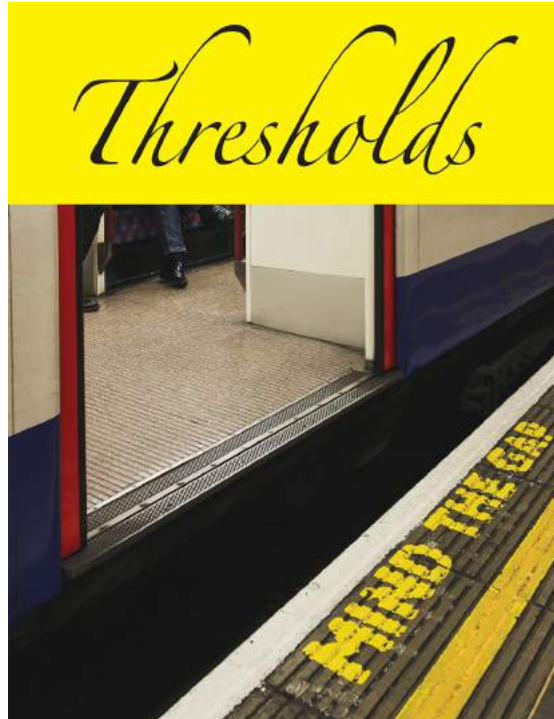
feelings to weave into those territories only enough to keep us from succumbing to complete denial. We are dipping in a teaspoonful at a time, preparing ourselves little by little...just in case. And...I know that some of us are finding a measure of hope in the upheaval, in the upending of centuries of status quo, our worries and discomforts notwithstanding.

Threshold is very much the apt word for this month. March and April have brought us to the edge between what was and what will be, with no certainty about how social, political, and economic realities will play out, or over what period of time. Being community together at this edge, however we can figure it out, will be important.

What I know for certain is that the lenses we bring to this time will matter for our individual and shared futures: the lenses of our personalities, the lenses of our spiritualities, the lenses of our UU faith tradition, the lenses of this congregation, and the lenses of the values that hold and guide us.

May all of our words help us face this liminal moment with courage and with love.

With care, - Rev. Kevin



New to Zoom?

Try a Zoom test on your computer: <https://zoom.us/test>

Download the free Zoom App for your phone (Zoom Cloud Meetings.) You may join by computer, smart phone, or simply call in by phone. Microphones/phones should be muted and cameras turned off. Use the "Chat" to write your hello, to share joys and sorrows, to respond to questions asked in the service, and to trouble shoot navigating Zoom.

REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Wednesday	5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Thursday	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Please contact Rev. Kevin or our Office Administrator to make an appointment for Rev. Kevin's office hours.

Contact Rev. Kevin to schedule appointments at other times.

minister@uugrassvalley.org or (231) 883-1058

admin@uugrassvalley.org or (530) 274-1675



Your Board of Trustees

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

I begin my monthly message with a Christian Scripture but I will not interpret it traditionally. However, this paraphrased text resonates with me right now. It is taken from the book of Romans 8:24:

In hope we were rescued. Now, hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what they see? But if we hope for what we do not see and wait for it with patience...we will be helped in our weakness and challenge.

There is no argument that this is a time of challenge. All of us are making a great many adjustments to accommodate a positive response to overcoming this Corona Virus. Your Board of Trustees has had two full meetings on Zoom. I have to admit I was apprehensive, but they went well. This is a very important time in the calendar of the church. We, since January, have been focused on the finances of the church. Our Stewardship campaign has been underway. Our Finance Chair came to a Board meeting and laid out for us what was required to enable the Finance Committee to have a budget ready to present at the Congregational Business Meeting which will be held on May 31. More on that later. Bob challenged both the BOT and the Ministry Council to think aspirationally. We were to work on our hopes (and what they would cost), and then he would bring them back to the table and lay them down next to our actual financial picture. In January everything looked fairly rosy. The BOT met in a separate budget meeting to think forward in a hopeful way. In previous President's messages I have shared our vision with you. You remember we agreed to set aside money for maintenance and replacement of damaged areas. We began thinking and planning for the process of determining a relocation or remodeling project. We were full of hope for the future.

Then the virus hit. All of our energy went into converting our worship to a virtual product. We kicked our non-essential maintenance down the road because we were no longer using the church and we couldn't have workers in the building unsupervised. Carol's safety had to be considered as well. Stewardship took to the phone lines. But budget preparation was continuing. We had given Bob Packard our aspirations in the good times. What now, he asked us.

Another budget meeting was called. I am consistently grateful for the willingness of this board to put in the extra hours when they are needed. At this meeting, we saw the difference between what we wanted and what we actually projected to have to pay for it. The difference was around \$36,000. Back to the drawing board.

At our next meeting we spent 2 ½ hours going over every item

we had asked for, evaluating it in our current environment. What could we do without? We got the deficit down to about \$13,000. Then the question was, given this challenging time, should we consider bringing a deficit budget to you? As you can imagine, this is a pretty conservative group as far as spending money goes. But were we willing to give up on dreams entirely? Your BOT members are conservative, but they are also faithful and aspirational. We wear "hopeful" lenses as we do the work of the church. We believe in all of you. And so, we pared some, but we also kept some. We had faith in what we couldn't yet see. Did we believe the money would magically appear as a gift from above? Most of us did not, although I must admit I wasn't willing to deny the possibility. But our belief in our community prevailed. Since that time our Stewardship has had success. Our expenses are down and we will have more left at the end of this year than we previously figured. We are whittling away at our deficit. Have we made up the entire figure?...no. But, believe me, our dreams are within reach.

We have done two things. We have based our hopes on what we can see...right now, and adjusted accordingly. In addition, we have been willing to look forward with aspirations for the work of UUCM. Conservative aspirations. It seems that is what makes sense in this challenging time. Of course, in FY20/21 we will be constantly reevaluating our budget, in light of our new realities, to be fiscally sound. Concurrently, we will be recognizing the results of our dreams.

Our Congregational Business Meeting will be online unless something dramatic happens to change that decision. Much needs to be worked out logistically to make that happen legally and make it available to all who want to participate. The General Assembly for the denomination has also made the decision to be virtual. They are providing suggestions to help us solve our challenges. We, as a BOT, will again have a special meeting to make sure the meeting happens smoothly and effectively and that we have communicated adequately with all of you.

Yes, these are challenging times. But we choose to look forward in hope. Blessings to all of you. Never stop dreaming.

- Rev. Karyn Packard

PLEASE NOTE:

Board of Trustees meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 2:30 PM unless stated otherwise.

At the present time, they will be held online so we can help contain the spread of COVID-19.

Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be on Sunday, May 31 by Zoom, following the 10:30 a.m. Service.

Please Welcome our New Members!

We are delighted to welcome several new members to UUCM! Watch for them online until you and we can welcome them in person. Meanwhile, please enjoy these brief biographies:



CHRIS CATLIN

I'm so grateful to be a part of this community! A certified homebody, the move to Gold Country from the Bay Area five years ago was the first relocation I've ever experienced. It was tough to pull up deep roots and the divisiveness that exploded in 2016 made it even tougher. But finding UUCM has finally made this place my home.

True to form, my favorite things are pretty simple—sharing a healthy meal, coaxing vegetables and native plants to grow, exploring botanical gardens (this pic is from the stunning Atlanta Botanical Garden), anything with our three grown kids, artsy pursuits, creating order out of chaos, and now connecting with new friends from UU! I'm looking forward to working on the Challenging White Privilege task force and delving into Soul Matters every month, but mostly forging bonds with you. Thank you for the warm welcome!



LINDA HORNING

Linda Horning is a former registered dietitian and diabetes educator, writer and mother. She grew up on a rural Pennsylvania farm, near where most of her extended family lives, but she moved to California nearly 45 years ago when she married her

husband, Phil. Together, they've shared travels overseas and various adventures closer to home. A memoir she published in 2016 entitled [*Buhari — A Family Odyssey in Nepal*](#) reveals more about her values around family and self.

Linda brings to the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains a deep-seeded love of humanity and respect for justice which insures all are treated equally under the law. In her lifetime, she has seen the destructive effect of racism, sexism and bigotry and how it contributes to unwarranted human suffering. She sees it as her responsibility to do whatever she can to make life fair and enjoyable for others.



PHIL HORNING

Phil Horning grew up in Pleasantville, New York, and went to the College of Forestry at Syracuse University to receive a degree in Landscape Architecture. Directly out of college he served as a Peace Corps volunteer for four years in

Iran, designing and building city parks and later working on National Parks.

After the Peace Corps he travelled for a year through most of Asia. Back in the USA, he landed a job with the US Forest Service and worked for four different forests in California with a 2-1/2 year stint in Tasmania, Australia. Now that he is retired, his interests are in painting landscapes and continuing to travel, cross country skiing, and hiking. Phil is interested in civil rights, climate change, and following politics, both local and international. Philosophically, he favors a hard core humanist approach with a sense of humor.



GARY KISOR

My name is Gary Kisor. My wife, Pamela, and I moved to Lake of the Pines about five years ago to be near our daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters. We had lived in Altadena for forty years and were quite happy there.

I was in education as a teacher and an administrator, retiring after forty years. I was a member of several astronomy and history groups in SoCal and I continue to participate in similar groups here. I also like classical music and I enjoy collecting books. I currently belong to two book clubs, The Book Club of California and the Zamorano Club.

I became interested in Universal Unitarianism after moving here because it gave me the opportunity to further explore and define religion, as I see it. I like the idea that the components of UU are geared to the present, rather than trying to define an afterlife.

Continued on the next page!

Please Welcome our New Members!



PAMELA KISOR

My name is Pam Kisor and I am from Southern California where I grew up, married my husband Gary, raised two children and had a long career in education as an administrator and teacher at Cal State University, Los Angeles.

Five years ago Gary and I moved from our home in Altadena and came to Lake of the Pines to be closer to our daughter and her family. The transition was a bit difficult for me, as I missed my lifelong friends and old routines. But with time I have made new connections and found new friends. My time is now filled with grandchildren, singing in a senior choral group, making pottery, serving on local committees, and more recently - joining the UU community.

I have always enjoyed attending church, but until now have had trouble finding a religion that fit my beliefs. I have practiced Buddhism and meditation for many years but I missed having an organized group with whom to join in fellowship. UU offers a community that is interested in spiritual growth and doing good works in support of a better world for all. UU also offers the openness to various ideas and beliefs that makes it a good fit for both my husband and myself, as we each approach religion from very different perspectives. It is nice to find a spiritual home that works for us both.



CAROL RICHEY

I moved to Nevada City from Southern California in 2007 and have occasionally attended UUCM over the last decade but shied away from membership. Now I am so happy and ready to make a commitment to become an active part of this community.

Having attended regularly since

November 2019, I have already made meaningful connections with people having shared interests: vegans, animal lovers – particularly horse people, great listeners, people in service to others and to the planet, interspirituality, team-based leaders, liberal thinking, LGBTQ, former Catholics, and more ...

I look forward to bringing joy to areas of service that match my interests and growth. I have a background in nursing, accounting and finance, executive leadership, and spiritual care/chaplaincy. Thank you all for the warm and sincere welcome I have received!



LISA HADEN

I was fortunate to move to Nevada County with my family in 1979. After high school I went to Sierra College and then to UC Berkeley, graduating with an English degree. I have been a gardener, teachers' assistant, tutor, proofreader and

bakery worker. Returning here in 2005, I experienced a series of profound life-changing events which culminated in a newfound reverence for life and creation; I began to understand the importance of a congregation in a spiritual practice. I began my search for a congregation last year and found that I liked UUCM.

The thoughts and actions of members of the congregation have continually touched my heart and inspired me. I knew about Unitarian Universalists' connections with social justice from talking with a college friend but there is so much more here: I love the openness to many forms of faith and belief, the encouragement of creativity, the collaboration and inclusion and the sweetness of the fellowship I see here. I love Reverend Kevin's energy, musicality and sermons! and I hope to grow with all of you in the coming years.

Need Coffee?



**ORGANIC SHADE-GROWN FAIR
TRADE COFFEE AVAILABLE**

By Joyce Banzhaf

Need Coffee? The high quality coffee UUCM serves, Cafe Justo, is still for sale and you don't have to go out and expose yourself in a grocery store line. Just contact Joycie by emailing joycebanzhaf@yahoo.com.

Choose from 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. (*Warning to decaf drinkers who do not buy organic: methylene chloride, banned in paint removers, may be in your decaf.* It is not in organic coffees which are water decaffeinated.) Once Joycie gets together an order of 30 pounds, she will make the purchase. Thanks for supporting organic, shade-grown coffee where all profit goes to the co-op workers in Mexico.

Caring Team

Meet the Caring Team Members

By Gwen Eymann, Acting Chair, Caring Team

Have you ever wondered about the people on the UUCM Caring Team and why we do what we do? For the next few months we will be featuring a statement from our team members about who we are and what this work means to us. Allow me to introduce Penny Harlan:



"My name is Penny Harlan and I have been a member of the caring team for over a year. The caring team embodies the UU philosophy of being available to members in time of need, providing food, rides or just a visit in person or by phone. We can all relate to having a friendly voice and a hug at just the right time. I have enjoyed learning the art of listening in a healing way."

- Penny Harlan

We are in uncharted waters with Covid-19, and are having to learn new ways to stay connected. Unable to function as before, Caring Team is being challenged to find new creative, safe ways to connect from a distance. We have a small list of volunteers who have offered to make store and pharmacy trips and run essential errands. There are also many options in our community for delivery or grocery store shopping that allow curbside pickup. We will be sending out this information via email with weekly updates as we gather more information.

AND, if you are wondering what you might do for our UUCM community during this time, here are some of the ways you can help:

1. Pick up the phone and make a call, write an email, or send a card to folks you know and to folks you would like to know better. In other words, reach out in safe ways. We all need each other now more than ever. Please let me know if there is someone you know who could use more contact and support.
2. There may be some who are not in a position to leave their home and could use some help with shopping for prescriptions, groceries, or essential household errands. Might you be in a position to offer that service in a safe way? If necessary, packages could be left at the door so no physical contact would be necessary. Please let me know if you can be a helper.
3. If you are a person who could use some help with errands or would like a little more social interaction, please speak up. There are many of us in the community who would be

honored to help and it gives us a chance to get to know each other in a deeper way. Please let the Caring Team know if there are ways we can help.

PLEASE NOTE: The 211 COVID-19 web page has links to many resources and is updated many times daily during the week: <https://211connectingpoint.org/nevada-county/covid-19/>

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, Tom Wernigg

Building and Grounds

Small Crews Help Out Safely on Outdoor Projects with Social Distancing

by Wally Holtan, Building and Grounds Team Chair

Even though our building is shut down, it does not mean that there are not things happening with building and grounds at this time. Last week we invited a few people to help us work on our outside area. Unfortunately, we sent the request out late. Consequently, Gwen and I were the only volunteers, but we trimmed the lawn and pulled a lot of weeds. We cleaned up the front area fairly well so that it would look nice to the community. Do not fear! There will be other opportunities in the coming weeks for two to three people to help us stay ahead of the yard maintenance. With a smaller number of volunteers, we can work at a safe distance.

You are probably thinking there is nothing much happening inside the building but Allison, our custodial person, is deep cleaning the first floor of the building. She is disinfecting everything, including the chairs, and will hopefully steam clean the sanctuary and wax the floor before she is finished. That is taking an opportunity and running with it! We wish you all the best during this time and hope that in the near future we will not have to zoom everything we do. I wonder how we can zoom a building and grounds workday? That would be interesting.



Art & Aesthetics Team

Art & Aesthetics Happenings

By Robin Hart, Chair, Art & Aesthetics Team

Last month I challenged you and your families, while you are home together and sequestered away from the church, to spend some creative time drawing, painting, doing crafts, or writing poetry and stories. Some of you have responded and sent in photos of creative things you have done. We will be featuring these creations in the e-chalice. I invite you this month to continue to share these with the congregation by sending me photos or word files of your writings. Please email me at rhstarbird@gmail.com. The A&A team is also brainstorming some other creative things for our congregation to do and we will be unfolding them in the coming months.

This month we are featuring team member Shanti Emerson.



INTRODUCING A&A
TEAM MEMBER
SHANTI EMERSON

Back in the day, when I was a girl, it seemed that no one took art classes but freaks. Being a conservative conformist, I followed the straight and narrow English major college program. After a life of raising my children and teaching, I found myself in San Francisco instructing English at Academy of Art College. At this point, I wanted to express my feelings in a way other than words, so I decided to study art. Art is a different language, one of color, texture and balance, a wordless way to express feelings.

I started out painting....watercolor (too weak), oils (too messy) and then acrylic (nice!). Fortunately I tried other modalities and found that I loved making objects with clay...bowls, masks, spiritual figures. These forms are three dimensional, which makes them very attractive to me—much more so than flat paintings. I love twisting and turning and molding clay to the shapes I envision.

Ceramics is a process: first, the idea; second, the sketch; and third, the materials and the molding. Most ceramicists work on their pieces for many many hours.



Finally when you're through shaping the clay, you set your work on a shelf to dry....slowly. When it is dry enough, it goes into the kiln for a bisque fire and bakes slowly at more than 2,000 degrees for 12 hours!!!

A couple of days later, when it is cool enough to handle (uncracked, hopefully), it's time to start glazing. The glaze makes or breaks the aesthetics of your piece so you do your best selecting the colors and qualities you want. Your ceramic piece then goes into another kiln....and bakes again for hours and hours. And finally, months after you began, voila!

You have your art piece.



Ironically, the past few years I have gone back to where I began... writing. But one day, I'll get that clay back in my hands.

– Shanti

Justice News and Activities

Justice News

For more information, or to get involved directly with the Justice Team, please contact Steve Temple or Stu Matthews at Justice@uugrassvalley.org

Local Volunteer Opportunities

By Keith Johnson, Member, 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.

PLEASE NOTE: During the Shelter in Place Order, volunteers are needed even more, but please contact the organization to find out their needs and hours before showing up. The descriptions for each organization's activities may not be exactly what is happening at the moment.

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).

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

IFM UPDATE

Interfaith Food Ministry provides food at least three times per week to those in need. Currently they need extra hands Thursdays from 8:00 to 11:00 AM for sorting and packing, and on Fridays from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM for distributions. Contact Anne Lyon (619-933-1618).

Interfaith Food Ministry is happy to share that they met their goal for the annual IFM March Matching Fundraiser! A huge thanks to all those who contributed! IFM has seen a significant increase in the number of people seeking food assistance since the pandemic began. Your continued support is very much appreciated by their 450+ volunteers and over 8,000 clients.

IFM has shifted to drive-thru distribution on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Also, there is Food Access Saturday every second Saturday of the month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Senior Grocery Bag Program delivers food to the homes of seniors unable to come in. To sign up for the program, call 211. All volunteers and staff wear masks, and hand sanitizers are available at all packing stations with gloves provided. Your help is needed to provide masks and paper grocery bags.

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).



Stewardship



Successful Pledge Campaign

By Keith Johnson, Chair, Stewardship Team

It is too early to provide full details for the 2020/21 Stewardship campaign, but it is not too early to proclaim it as a "roaring" success. With a few pledges still outstanding, the total amount pledged is \$213,392. This is a 6.2% increase from last year's pledged amount. Hurray!

Thanks to all who contributed so much to this campaign - the Stewardship team, the visiting stewards, Rev. Kevin, and most of all you, the members and friends of UUCM. It is truly an incredible accomplishment to increase our pledges so significantly despite the enormous challenges imposed by the coronavirus. Thanks for all you do for UUCM.

Stay tuned for more detailed information about the results of the pledge campaign. But for now, celebrate!

Stewardship Team email: Stewardship@uugrassvalley.org

UU General Assembly

General Assembly 2020 Goes Virtual

The Unitarian Universalist Board of Trustees has voted to make General Assembly 2020 - our big, annual UU business meeting/conference - a 100% virtual event.

A virtual GA has many benefits, including a significant reduction in our carbon footprint and the possibility of higher attendance, since it is more accessible for delegates and anyone else burdened by travel costs or time.

Registration for the June 24-28 event is open to all (\$150), and UUCM will designate three official delegates. Members, please contact President Karyn Packard or Rev Kevin if you are interested in serving as a delegate from UUCM.

There are also several events open to all for free. To register, visit uua.org/ga.

Watch here in June for more information about the public events.

Pass the Plate

While April numbers are still coming in as we go to press, we are glad to report that in March, UUCM Members and Friends gave \$1000 to Citizens for Choice! Thank you again for your marvelous generosity.

UUCM's May Pass-the-Plate recipient will be Hospice of the Foothills, whose mission is to provide compassionate end-of-life support for patients, families and the community.



Giving During Zoom Church Services

Now that we cannot physically pass a basket around to collect your donations, we have several ways for you to continue to contribute to safely to UUCM and to our Justice partners.

To **TEXT** your offering gift (like dropping money in the basket): text the amount to **833-579-0483**. Text the amount you wish to give. 25% will go to the current month's pass-the-plate recipient. The first time you do this, you will receive a registration link in reply. Follow it, fill in your info (you can use a credit card or debit card.) Then press PROCESS, and you are done. After the first time, you just put in the amount in the text and it will work automatically. You can even set up a recurring donation if you would like to.

To give via **Paypal**, go to: paypal.me/uucm. You may leave a "note" if you want 100% of your gift donated to the pass-the-plate recipient of the month. Otherwise, 25% will go to pass-the-plate. (No other percentages, please.) You may also list "pledge" to pay your pledge, or "donation" to make a general donation.

To give via **UUCM's website**, go to: uugrassvalley.org and click on the Online Giving/Donate image. There you may choose Pledge, Endowment fund, General donation, or Pass-the-plate.

And, of course, as always, you may mail in your pledge via the U.S. Postal Service:

UUCM, Atten: Treasurer
246 South Church Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Be sure to write Pledge, Donation, Endowment Fund, or Pass-the-plate (or the organization name) in the memo line.

Community Connections – Online Activities

Flatten the Curve and Heighten the Connection!

Though the building is closed, UUCM is open.

In order to care for each other and the community, UUCM's building is essentially closed, and all meetings and services are happening online or via phone. Caring people are thoughtfully contacting members who might not have email or internet connections. Carol, UUCM's office administrator, will be working from home, monitoring phone messages and email from a distance.

As long as we are in this virus-slowness mode, there are several ongoing weekly opportunities for UUCM Members and Friends to connect via Zoom or phone, in addition to other circles and meetings you may be participating in. Here's what we've lined up so far:

WEEKLY @ UUCM

(watch your email for links and phone numbers. If you need links, please contact uucmOnline@uugrassvalley.org)

MONDAY MORNING CHECK IN - 10:00 AM

Open conversation and sharing for members and friends, facilitated by various congregation leaders. 1 hour.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SHARING CIRCLE SERVICE - 7:00 PM

Chalice Lighting, Opening Words, Singing, a chance to breathe and reflect, Joys and Sorrows sharing, Closing Words. 45 minutes length.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CHECK IN - 4 PM

An open, end-of-the-week, TGIF conversation and sharing for members and friends, processing the week and getting ready for the weekend, with encouragement to tune up our personal spiritual practices.

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:30 AM

(Children and Youth meet at 9:30)

SUNDAY DROP-IN SUPPORT CIRCLE - NOON

Confidential Peer support. The circle's mission is to provide a place for UUCM folks to drop in (now via Zoom) to give and get a little extra support.

"We usually meet for about 35 minutes, and the format is a circle where we take turns (usually about 3 minutes) to share what is present for us. Sharing is confidential. If there is time remaining we do extra sharing in a popcorn fashion. (Advice should be given only when requested or with permission.) We are a sharing and support circle rather than a therapy session."

Please join in as it will serve your spirit, knowing that your presence will be a gift to others.

UUCM Groups Continue to Meet via Zoom (and Phone)!

There are many groups that meet regularly at UUCM which have moved their meetings to the Zoom app while the Shelter-in-Place order continues. You may also call into Zoom by phone. Please contact the individual organizers if you are interested in joining!

Humanist Discussion Group

By George Dunstan

Meeting by Zoom, First Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM. For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan: Humanism@uugrassvalley.org

Walking Group

By Theresa Houtman

Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Please contact Theresa Houtman at Walking@uugrassvalley.org to find out when we are resuming walks or to get on the list.

Singing Meditation Circle - via Zoom

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7-8:30 PM

Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org

Meditation Group - SUSPENDED FOR NOW

Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM, when resumed. Contact: Shelley North-Gerson, Meditation@uugrassvalley.org

Women's Circle – BY ZOOM

SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM AT UUCM

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 and she will add you. You'll get monthly updates and reminders of our upcoming meetings... watch for the Zoom link for our next meeting.

Men's Groups - via Zoom

Men gather to enjoy each other's company. On Wednesday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00 - contact Men@uugrassvalley.org
Thursday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00, contact BookMen@uugrassvalley.org

For All of Us in the UUCM Family

By Rene Wiley, Chair, Family Ministry

Are you noticing a new phase of Covid moving in you? One that has emotions swirling as we try to find a way forward in the new "abnormal"? During this period of change and loss, it may be that we need a fresh and powerful way to ground ourselves. For this reason, the team at Soul Matters recommends using an adaptation of Lectio Divina, an ancient Catholic method of listening to God's voice, in our personal practice and small group times. You may already be familiar with this approach which helps us go deeper by meditating on an inspirational reading to invite the shy innermost voice and wisdom to the surface.

More about Lectio Divina origin and uses here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lectio_Divina#History_and_development

For anyone who would like to try a UU-ized version of Lectio Divina, here are some adapted steps along with a suggested reading. This can be practiced solo or by reading aloud with a small group.

1. Enter into a space of stillness (...and gratitude, for the ancient monks who began the process that we hope not to malign too much.)
2. Slowly read an inspirational piece (poetry, prayer, etc.) three times, and then invite three questions:
 - a. What FEELINGS arise?
 - b. What MEMORIES does it stir?
 - c. What MESSAGE does it have for me? ...Alternatively, what word of comfort or challenge for me?
3. Journal your answers, maybe take time to walk/move your body, and get a sense for the deeper voice that arises.

SOULFUL PARENTS

Soulful Parents is a new Soul Matters small group sharing circle that is forming. Our aim is Discernment and Deep Listening with two exercises, one of which will explore Lectio Divina (above). In a circle of trust, we enter a space where we can be reminded of our own true voice and know that we have the knowledge needed to get through to the other side of Covid with grace.

Small groups are a wonderful, unique experience of gratitude and spiritual awareness and we'd love to have parents join us! To be led by Rene, contact familyministry@uugrassvalley.org

UPDATES ON RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR MAY

A warm thank you to Lindsay and Walt who zoom with the kids on Sundays for Religious Exploration and provide a sweet way for the friends to discover their connectedness. They love the time together and they love their teachers!

Adult members and friends: Would you like to take a video of yourself reading a story for the kids, that they can access from a secure YouTube channel any time? We supply the story, you supply the loving kindness! Our kids will be thankful to be in community with you in this way! Thank you for considering this. Let Rene know if you are willing and able.

Attention kids! **UU Suuperhero** is coming soon! Tremendous natural forces are gathering now in preparation to remind us of the values we already carry. Join us to rediscover your super powers!

A Prayer for Hopelessness

*The days that come
and carry away your spirit, your spark –
bow down.
Lay your head on the hard earth
and let your brokenness
join the death that is stirring there.
Life rebels against death,
takes the very dust of our bones
and reweaves it into glory.
You were made for Life,
and Life does not intend to let you go.
But rest you can.
Decay and falling away from ourselves
are part of that process.
If you need to fall apart, then do –
for Life will hold you in that, too
will teach you how to dessicate and blow away
and then will call you back from the four corners of the earth
and will renew you with the water
of the tears of others
who
like you
weep for all that is lost.
She will breathe back into you
the breath that washes from the mouths of children laughing
from the lion's roar,
from the exhalation of trees.
You will be reborn
into the arms of beloveds
and together,
we will sing a new song.*



What Does It Mean to be a People of Thresholds?

From the
Soul Matters Authors

"When encountering thresholds, we often talk as if our work is that of successfully "passing through" them. We speak of "making healthy transitions." We seek out advice and support as we decide which thresholds to lean into and which to resist. The goal, it would seem, is figuring out how to travel forward in the right way.

But what if the true invitation of a threshold is not to successfully move from here to there, but instead to just sit and pause? What if we saw thresholds as resting places rather than as those moving walkways that transport us through airports? What if thresholds help us "become" by asking us to just "be" for a while? No moving. Just noticing and naming. Less traveling and more listening.

One of our Soul Matters ministers, the Rev. Sara LaWall, gets at this when she writes, "A [threshold is] a space to imagine a new way, and new self. Not moving or pushing but sitting and cultivating... [the goal] is to allow you space and time to reflect on your past, present, and future. To imagine a new beginning..."

And that imagining and naming may be more powerful than we usually assume. From the outside, it may seem that nothing has changed in our lives, and yet once that imagining takes shape in our minds and hearts, nothing is ever the same. The idea, the dream, the recognition suddenly takes on gravity. And that gravity creates an inevitability that transforms us, sometimes whether we like it or not.

Here's how the writer Gary Zukav puts it, "At that moment [of realization], a threshold is crossed. What seemed unthinkable becomes thinkable... Once that realization has emerged, you can either honor it or ignore it, but you cannot forget it. What has become known can not become unknown again."

So friends, maybe our question this month isn't "Are you ready to change?" but "How have you already changed?" How have you already passed through? How is your "threshold work" the work of noticing a shift inside you that has already occurred?

There is, after all, no forgetting it. Only living it. And letting it live in us.

Book Groups

Book Groups are continuing by Zoom for the next few months until we are able to meet in person. We may need to change times slightly to accommodate other Zoom meetings but here is the current plan.

THIRD WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP - MAY 20, 2:00 PM

Our first Zoom book group on April 15 was filled with depth and insight as Karyn led us to explore Ann Patchett's relationship with her friend Lucy Delaney. We also chose new books for June, July and August.

On May 20, we review *Cold Country* by Russell Rowland. Our own Montana expert Kate Canan will lead this discussion and may have a special treat for us as we discuss this murder mystery.

In June, Karyn will again guide us as we delve into the author's experience in a Hasidic community as we discuss *Unorthodox* by Deborah Feldman on Wednesday, June 17 at 2:00 PM.

On Wednesday, July 15, Theresa Houtman invites us to revisit William Heat Moon in his new novel, *O America, Discovery in a New Land*. Those who read *The Greater Journey* may especially appreciate this fiction, with history about an English physician's journey to discover America at about the same time in history. We decided to review and contrast Moon's earlier book. We invite all who enjoyed this Sunday group pick to join us.

Connie Wright will facilitate our discussion of *Fascism* by Madelyn Albright on Wednesday, August 19, at 2:00 PM.

FIRST SUNDAY BOOK GROUP - MAY 3, 1:30 PM BY ZOOM

May 3, we'll discuss *Testament* by Margaret Atwood. Jo Waters will lead the discussion.

On June 7 at 1:30 PM, Mary Pickett will spearhead the very apt exploration of *Station Eleven*, by Emily St John, either at UUCM or more likely by Zoom. We will choose books for the next three months, so please bring your ideas.

Meetings will be on Zoom until further notice. Readers are welcome to attend either or both groups at any time. Contact Theresa Houtman, BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org to RSVP or with questions.

Adult Religious Exploration



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

LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND GROW?

THREE WATERSHED UNITARIAN SERMONS – and What They Have to do with Us Rev. Kevin and Keith Johnson

Here's the schedule:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/829751063>

Meeting ID: 829 751 063

Dial in by phone

1-669-900-9128

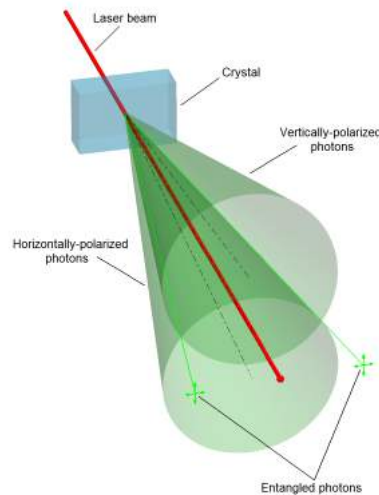
Meeting ID: 829 751 063 #

- **Tuesday, May 19, 5:30 to 7:00 PM.**
"The Commencement Address"
by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1838)
- **Tuesday, June 16, 5:30 to 7:00 PM**
"The Transient and Permanent in Christianity"
by Theodore Parker (1841)

Unitarian Universalists celebrate our diversity of spiritual and theological beliefs. However, we do have one thing in common – we love a good sermon. Are you familiar with the three 19th century sermons that are universally acclaimed as the three greatest UU sermons of all time (or at least three watershed sermons in our journey)? Please join Keith Johnson and Rev. Kevin as we read portions out loud and discuss the sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker.

For each class Keith will provide a brief introduction to the sermon. Next, everyone will read out loud selected passages from each sermon. We will invite your immediate reaction to the sermon. Lastly, Kevin will close by reflecting on the lasting historical impact of these sermons.

Sound interesting? Please contact Keith Johnson at kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com to register. No need to prepare for this class but if you are so inclined you may read the sermons in advance. Contact Keith for pdfs of the individual sermons, or see *Three Prophets of Religious Liberalism: Channing, Emerson, Parker* by Conrad Wright. A copy is available in the church library.



UUCM AND QUANTUM MECHANICS – with Bob Miller and Joel Houtman

One Sunday when I was trying to escape UUCM before Keith Johnson asked me about my pledge, I was accosted by Dave MacLeod. "Hi Bob, I have a great idea. I think you should give a series of talks on Quantum Mechanics." My reaction was quick and clear. The last thing I needed was another project, especially one that demanded learning about Quantum Mechanics that I could not understand when I was 20 never mind now that I am 75. However, Dave is both super enthusiastic and persistent. I succumbed. Fortunately, he recruited Joel Houtman to help me. Joel gives every impression that he understands this stuff.

Under the heading of "The Quantum World" we embarked on our series of discussions. We meet on Sunday at 1:30PM at approximately two-week intervals to give us time in between to hit Wikipedia.

There are amazing online resources about Quantum Mechanics on various websites, including Wikipedia, and certainly YouTube. These are created by some of the finest minds on the planet. We were determined not to try and compete but to do something different – something that was not available online. We emphasize a discussion format. We encourage contributions from all participants. No question is irrelevant – we will go down any rat hole. A couple of my favorite contributions: "How do you make an atom bomb?" and "I thought gravity was always down".

We were staggered when over 20 people showed up for the first session. We have journeyed down into the quantum world moving to Zoom as the virus hit. We repurposed a session to have a discussion on the science of Covid-19. We asked, "why the virus existed and how it relates to the seventh principal about the interdependent web of all existence, etc.?" George Dunstan still has sleepless nights worrying about this.

Our format enables some special contributions. As we got excited about bigger and better particle accelerators, we heard from an invited guest how the farming communities were destroyed to make land available for the Tevatron outside Chicago. Even Wikipedia does not know about that.

So far Joel and I have survived every session. In the spirit of Mark Twain, what we have forgotten or never knew, we make up. Since nobody, not even the best physicists, understands Quantum Mechanics and the best theories are known to be flawed, who cares?

As I write this the next April session is about "Quantum Entanglement" followed by "The Big Bang and Determinism" in May. If you are interested in attending by Zoom, please contact Bob Miller at bob@sierramiller.com for an invitation.

May 2020 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

MAY 2020

Please note: All meetings and services are held by Zoom until further notice: Watch for links and meeting numbers through your email from UUGeneral or the meeting hosts.

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
1	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check-In
3	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM 1:30 PM	Connection Time for Children Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Book Group
4	Monday	10:00 AM 6:30 PM	Monday Morning Check-In Soul Matters Exploratorium
5	Tuesday	4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
6	Wednesday	8:30 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
7	Thursday	8:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group via Zoom Singing Meditation Circle
8	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check-In
10	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM 1:30 PM	Connection Time for Children Sunday Service Drop in Support Circle Spiritual Practices Sampler
11	Monday	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Monday Morning Check-In Women's Circle
12	Tuesday	1:00 PM 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	Executive Committee Meeting CWP Reading Group The Commencement Address
13	Wednesday	8:30 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
14	Thursday	8:00 AM 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	Men's Group Writers' Group Social Justice Meeting
15	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check-In
17	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM 12:45 PM	Connection Time for Children Sunday Service Drop in Support Circle Family Ministry Team Meeting

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
18	Monday	10:00 AM	Monday Morning Check-In
19	Tuesday	5:30 PM	The Divinity School Address
20	Wednesday	8:30 AM 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Wednesday Book Group Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
21	Thursday	8:00 AM 2:30 PM	Men's Group Board of Trustees Meeting
22	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check-In
24	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Connection Time for Children Sunday Service Drop in Support Circle
25	Monday	10:00 AM	Monday Morning Check-In
26	Tuesday	4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Task Force
27	Wednesday	8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
28	Thursday	8:00 AM 10:30 AM 6:00 PM	Men's Group Writers' Group Worship Team Meeting
31	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM 2:30 PM	Connection Time for Children Sunday Service Drop in Support Circle Annual Congregational Business Meeting



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Telephone: 530.274.1675 Website: www.uugrassvalley.org

Normally: Two Sunday Services: at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM
During the COVID-19 Quarantine: ONE Sunday Service via Zoom at 10:30 AM

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

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

Tuesday:	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Wednesday:	5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Thursday:	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*
Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

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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:

MtChalice@uugrassvalley.org

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

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