

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

July 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.

Connection Time for Kids is led on Zoom by Lindsay Duncel at 9:30 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 # • **NEW! Passcode: 688010**

Audio by phone: Dial in: 1-669-900-9128
Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • **NEW! Passcode: 688010**

July 5 Mobilizing Our Collective Compassion
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Allison Rivers Samson

(After our special General Assembly service at the end of June, we conclude our "Compassion" series with this service, originally scheduled for the last Sunday in June.) UUCM members claim the mission of creating "a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just." And of course, those three ideals are connected. How can and do we together cultivate, live, and sustain our collective compassion? And where does that lead us now?

2020 SUMMER SERVICES AND THEME: Our Spiritual Sources and Resources

July 12 Direct Experience of Life's Transcendent Mystery
Jeff Stone

Some religions offer to mediate life's transcendent mystery through their clergy. Let's talk about a more direct approach.

July 19 Our People Gonna Rise:
with Emma's Revolution at the UU Fellowship of Northern Nevada

UUCM joins the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada. (And in September, UUFNN will join UUCM for one of our services.)

Emma's Revolution (amazing musical duo) and Rev. Karen Foster team up to offer a soul-filling service that will nurture our spirits and inspire us out of our comfort zones to more fully live our UU values in these days.

July 26 Humanist Teachings, Counsel, & a Few Warnings
UUCM Members and Friends with Wendy Wernigg, Worship Associate

Tap into another of our rich UU sources: "Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit"

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Earlier in the year I spoke several times of the nature of liminal times, in-between times when a previous reality or identity no longer exists or serves, and a new reality or identity has not yet arisen. And that was before COVID-19 altered our lives and ushered in a newfound awareness of systemic racism in the nation and the active call to dismantle it.

My friends, the congregation and religious institutions were already in a liminal era, and now, so is the rest of the human world. Plus, all this time at home and out of our ordinary routines invites deep personal introspection, with a reevaluation of our priorities and paths. In other words, we are entering what some people refer to as "pure liminality," wherein personal, group, and societal forces all move into a liminal state at the same time.

That means we are entering a time of tremendous ambiguity and possibility en route to clarity and to what we will become, as individuals, as a congregation, as a society. As Susan Beaumont points out, the liminality of this time will be at once dangerous, alluring and powerfully sacred. In the midst of the ambiguity and risk, it will be an exciting and fecund time.

It may help you to know that anxiety, changes in motivation, re-evaluations of commitment, personal overload, the reemergence of old issues and patterns, and polarization are common attributes of such liminal times. They come with the undefined territory. And while each of those things will push our worry buttons at various times, living our way through them with integrity and heart – remembering to stay anchored in our values, our mission and the quality of our relating – will also lead us to greater depth and to the openness and flexibility that will allow the best possibilities to emerge.

I will be taking time in July to center myself so that I may be of best service to you moving forward. I'll bracket two weeks of vacation with a week of study leave on either side, beginning July 6 and concluding August 3.

As we turn the corner of the fiscal year July 1, I must offer a profound thanks to outgoing UUCM President, Karyn Packard; Secretary, Sandi Lauher; Treasurer, Joel Houtman; and Members at-large Maryann Currington and Dennis Weiher. They have been marvelous board members, working with heart and commitment to strengthen UUCM. And Karyn's leadership has been inspiring and motivating all year. Thank you, each of you!

Their leadership continues, as Karyn moves to the Nominating Committee, Maryann to chair Stewardship, and Dennis to

focus on his co-leadership of the Ministry Council, made up of the various ministry leaders. Thank you.

And thank you to Jim Perkins, who moves into the President role, and Janet Dunstan, who continues her amazing policy work from her at-large position on the Board. Welcome and thank you in advance to Pam Kisor (incoming Vice-President), Bob Packard (incoming Treasurer), and Gene Gilligan and Reine Thibeault (incoming Members at-large). Great additions, all.

This summer, the building use will likely remain limited to staff and the few Board members and building use leaders who truly need access to the building. As infection rates rise at the moment, we don't expect to be able to sanction official UUCM small group gatherings for a time yet. Watch, however, for word of encouragement to make safe one-on-one connections this summer.

Our Sunday Zoom services will continue all summer with the wonderful talent and artistry of the Worship Team members and a pair of special joint ventures with our sister congregation in Reno, NV.

Justice needs and issues will certainly remain alive and evolving all summer. Watch for learning and witnessing opportunities of various kinds, including Vote Forward letter writing every Thursday afternoon. Most groups and circles will continue to help people connect, and leaders will be looking to you to know how best to help you stay connected at UUCM.

It's a liminal time, my friends. Treat each other and yourself with an extra measure of kindness and patience. Treat little as permanent, and everything as open to possibility. Grieve the losses you are feeling; they are real. Notice the gifts of this time; they are real, too. Anchor yourself in the love that roots our Universalist heritage. And hold on to hope for a heart and world in more life-giving alignment out of finding our way through.

With care,

- Rev. Kevin

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 note: Rev. Kevin will be on vacation and study leave for four weeks from July 6 through August 3.

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*

June 18th was bittersweet. It was our “transition” meeting with this year’s out-going and next year’s incoming members of the Board of Trustees. Kevin took a very special screen shot as we all came together on zoom. This is a new process, in that these folks were invited to actually participate in our last monthly meeting (short of voting). We, as a BOT, intentionally presented not only where we are, but also where we have come from and how we hope our undertakings will continue to develop in the future. There was even time for questions from our newest members.

Preparation for this meeting included some real evaluation of our own work. First, we looked at our initial goals. Perhaps you will remember them at the beginning of the term: well-functioning finances, long-range facilities planning, and effective implementation of the new governance model. There were also goals for our new Ministry Council: developing a well-functioning Ministry Council, increasing participation and integration of people in the congregation, and the increase of UUCM’s visibility in the wider community.

I think it was not only helpful for the new Board to hear this evaluation, but also for each of you in our congregation to read it. Nothing happens in a vacuum. It is more difficult to make sure everyone is included when we are online. However, that doesn’t make the work any less important. Remember our commitment: accuracy, timeliness and transparency.

First is our finances update. We are all reaping the benefits of the work done by our outgoing Treasurer, Joel Houtman. He was supported by the Finance Committee, chaired by Bob

Packard. Not enough can be said in appreciation for Joel’s work. Some of his many accomplishments include accurate and timely monthly reports and reimbursements. Janet Dunstan straightened out the deposit spreadsheet for Carol, and Scottie Hart reconstructed the physical files as filing had not been taking place. The reimbursement/expense system was improved. A method to help track credit card expenses to budget lines was established, and reports and expenses were reorganized in keeping with the new Governance structure. On-line giving was improved and Steve Wiley created tutorials for people to use to update their pledges. Two new methods of online giving were created (Text and Paypal), and we are restructuring our bookkeeping data and methods. Our growing Finance Committee has new members, all highly skilled. The BOT worked well with this Finance Committee to have a budget that accurately reflected the goals and vision of UUCM. It is amazing to reflect on these improvements. However, as Bob Packard becomes our new Treasurer, the new BOT is tasked with taking a serious look at just how demanding the Treasurer’s job has been, as our congregation has grown in numbers and activities. What needs to be done

about it? What are reasonable expectations? Joel’s thoughtful suggestions to us need to be taken seriously.

The next goal was long-range facilities planning. Earlier in the year, an initial Board committee the was formed and individuals were interviewed who had unique skills and gifts to support our congregation in this exciting

project. Charlie Brock (Realtor), Jeff Gold (Architect), Gail Schultz (capital campaign experience) and our own denominational experts shared their thoughts. Wally Holtan worked with the BOT to establish a timetable for making sure that we cared for our building as we understood it is our most enduring symbol and source of future capital. Repairs have already begun. However, in the middle of this exciting visioning, we were reminded that, much like the Treasurer’s job, Wally’s job expectations far exceed what one person can



Our combined team of incoming and outgoing UUCM Board Members during our physically-distanced transition meeting on Zoom (of course!)

Your Board of Trustees, continued...

do. The money for a “sexton” position was voted in the budget, and it will be the next Board that makes sure that support is found. When the virus hit, of course, these plans had to be shelved temporarily, but we hope this work will continue with new board members and renewed creativity from all involved. Our dreams must endure, even in the midst of a pandemic.

Lastly, we come to the integration of the new Governance Model. Janet Dunstan headed up our Governance committee. She gathered many different stake-holders to help her reevaluate our policies, to make sure what is written is actually what we want to be doing. As you experienced, this also involved bylaw changes. Janet’s memory and record of UUCM history really helped and she was determined to succeed. I thank each person who wrote, read, edited, researched, etc. to strengthen the documentation of our policies. We are so much farther along in this task than I had imagined for the end of this year. Was it always fun work? No, it was often grueling and time consuming. However, this board did what was needed. For next year’s board, the remainder of the job needs to be completed. The immediate needs are the various Safety Policies and the Covenant of Right Relations. You will be hearing more about ways that you can participate in these policy processes. I will thank you in advance for your support. We are fortunate that Janet has another year in her term as Member-at-large. The BOT will need her.

Maryann Currington, Sandi Lauher and Jim Perkins were tasked with synthesizing the previous year’s COSM’s (Commission on Shared Ministry) report to the BOT on UUCM Communications needs. They came back to the board with priorities. Most of the priorities required augmenting staff. That became increasingly clear when we went online. That funding for staff is in our next year’s budget. The new board will figure out how to make this communication support a reality.

Kern Hildebrand brought us this year’s COSM proposal related to Leadership Training. It was well researched and concisely constructed with steps to follow. His report will challenge the new Board to develop training for the leaders in our congregation in the future.

Kevin will bring you up to date on the Ministry Council, but throughout this year, Board members Dennis Weiher and Jim Perkins did double duty, working with the Ministry Council. Dennis provided administrative leadership and Jim acted as a liaison with the BOT, a position essential for smooth coordination between the Governance and Ministry sides

of our structure. There is dynamic energy at work on this Council.

The glue that held this Board together was our Secretary, Sandi Lauher. She kept track of information and shared it accurately with those who needed it. It is not the job that gets the most attention, but without it, none of the other jobs could have been accomplished. Sandi passes this mantle to Jo Waters’ capable hands.

It has been a delight working together with our minister, Kevin Tarsa. It felt as if our visions and methods were in sync and I can’t imagine a more comfortable workmate. We have all seen just how fortunate we are that Kevin is our minister, especially during this difficult time.

What has it been like for me as your President? I have loved doing it, especially because of the quality of the people working with me on this team. I appreciate your confidence and support throughout my term. I hand the imaginary gavel over to Jim Perkins, your new President, with confidence. He will have at his right-hand, Pam Kisor, his Vice-President. Together they will hold the course to keep the wind in the sails...even in rough seas. Your two new remaining Members-at-large are Reine Thibeault and Gene Gilligan. Their gifts and commitment became immediately apparent as they volunteered for tasks in the year ahead at their very first meeting.

Your ship’s crew is exemplary. Follow their lead with your support and respect.

Faithfully,

- Rev. Karyn Packard

...Introducing your new...

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021

Jim Perkins	President
Pam Kisor	Vice-President
Jo Waters	Secretary
Bob Packard	Treasurer

Members at Large:

Janet Dunstan, Gene Gilligan & Reine Thibeault

The July Board of Trustees business meeting will be held on Friday, July 11, from 3:30 to 6:30 PM.

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

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

Caring Team

Meet the Caring Team Members

By Gwen Eymann, Acting Chair, Caring Team

Compassion was the theme for last month and we are reminded that compassion is not just a matter of niceness and thoughtful feelings. It is a deeper type of feeling that drives us to action and that is particularly needed in these times we are living.

As we continue to navigate through what it means to live with a pandemic, we are finding ways to share our joys and sorrows. Through our Zoom Sunday Services we share with each other our losses: illness, emotional stress and strains, the death of family members and friends. And, we share our celebrations: the birth of new babies, the achievements of our children, the birthdays, and the recent weddings of Elizabeth Fries and Scott Muir, and Rochelle Davisson and Paul Elias. We may not be together in person, but we are joined in spirit and caring compassion for each other.

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 Maryann Currington:



"The Caring Team seemed like a natural extension of the UU Principles that I was so drawn to. When I joined UUCM in the winter of 2016, my country seemed to have gotten a little crueler and less caring. What a joy to become part of a beautiful, thoughtful group of people and what better way to become truly a part of the community than by joining the Caring Team. I remember my first meetings

so well. I was tentative. I barely knew anyone and, being an introvert, I wondered how I would be able to contribute. One of my first assignments was to call those who had volunteered to drive members to doctors' appointments. There were many appointments to assign. My first two calls changed me forever. The volunteers did not hesitate and my dreaded calls were delightful. UUCM is exactly the kind of community I had hoped to find and the Caring Team exemplifies its Principles.."

- Maryann Currington

We are now moving into our FIFTH month of social distancing and for many of us it is taking its toll. We are social creatures who need touch and connection with our family and friends, and during this isolation we have had to forego much, if not all, of that. We at the Caring Team want you to know we have volunteers who are happy to reach out with phone calls. We

also have volunteers who have offered to shop or run essential errands if you have need of those services. Please reach out if we can be of help during these difficult times. We are staying connected in the ways we can.

Please feel free to contact us by email:

caring@uugrassvalley.org or gweneymann@gmail.com

Caring Team Members:

Gwen Eymann and Tom Wernigg, *co- chairs*

Maryann Currington, Jenny Dewey, Penny Harlan, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman, Anne Lyon

Building and Grounds

Improvements Made in June

by Wally Holtan, Building and Grounds Team Chair

I'm sharing two photos of our new upstairs windows in the Family Ministry room and the kitchen. They will greatly help with the mold and temperature control problems that have plagued us for years.

I look forward to the time when we can all work together again, but until then we will continue to do projects on a very limited group or individual basis. If you have any special skills or talents you could share, please let me know. We can always use the help. Thank you. uucmgv@gmail.com



Stewardship



Maryann Currington, pictured with Lesley Champlin and Rev. Kevin at the Roaring 2020 Stewardship Dinner last March, now takes the reins of the Stewardship Team

Starting 2020-21 with New Leadership

By Maryann Currington, Chair, Stewardship Team

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, our congregational life remains strong as UUCM enters fiscal year 2020-2021. The Stewardship Team is tying up a few loose ends from our successful 2019-2020 campaign but we're roaring in 2020-2021 with enthusiastic anticipation.

I have taken on the role of Chairperson. Keith Johnson,

whose guidance I so appreciate, will generously remain on the team, as will Lesley Champlin and Carmen Riley, dependable, skilled and thoughtful members. This year we are delighted to welcome Gail Schultz and Cheryl Branch as new team members. Our thanks and best wishes to Bob Miller and Bob Packard, who added so much to Stewardship for many years, as they are now called to serve in other capacities.

I have been thinking a great deal about the role of Stewardship in UUCM since joining the team in 2017. I joined initially because I felt it was a vital service to our Church and a good way to get involved (which it is!). But, as with all service that challenges, I find I have grown personally and spiritually. I've come to understand that Stewardship isn't just about asking for money, but about asking members to reflect on their relationship to their values, their faith, and their church; encouraging them to raise questions, explore expectations, and enjoy the personal benefits of generosity. This will be a focus for the team this next year.

Your Stewardship Team will use summer as a time to plan. Our team will explore ideas such as RE workshops, small group discussions, and, by necessity, "Stewardship in the time of COVID-19." I've found UUA to be a wonderful support and I've been attending Zoom workshops and connecting with other Stewardship teams. There is a world of exploration at my fingertips within that computer sitting at my desk.

So, with courageous love, I look forward to my new role and serving you in our growing UUCM community.

Stewardship Team email: Stewardship@uugrassvalley.org

Finance

Passing the Torch to Gail Schultz

By Bob Packard, Chair, Finance Team

Those of you who attended the Congregational Business Meeting on May 31st heard an extremely positive report from the Treasurer, describing a lot of things that Joel and the Finance Committee have done this year to improve responsiveness of reimbursements and fidelity in our financial records. He also reported that generally consistent giving and lower than expected spending have left the church with a substantial surplus this fiscal year. I'm happy to report that that surplus has actually grown considerably since then. I'll have the final details next month, but I can report now that the church has been able to use some of these surplus funds (roughly \$7,000) to address a major building repair that was budgeted for FY21. Windows have been on our deferred maintenance list for a long time for the kitchen and upstairs, on the south and east sides of the Family Ministry room. Due to the Board's decisive reprogramming decision, these windows have now been replaced. Our kitchen workers, RE classes, and those of us using that room for meetings will appreciate the improvement.

This being the start of a new fiscal year, I'd like to remind you of two things that often result in confusion and require time consuming corrective actions:

1. Pledges received in July or later will be assumed to be for payment of FY21 pledges unless there is information with the payment, telling us that it is a late payment for FY20. So, if you are making a payment on your FY20 pledges, please indicate whether the payment is for FY20 or for FY21 on the memo line of your check or on the outside of an envelope with cash.
2. Those of us who have changed our pledge amounts and use "automatic" check writing by your bank or recurring Vanco online processing for their pledge payments need to remember NOW to revise the amount field in your donation directive. Vanco setup for this purpose is sometimes confusing and tricky, so our Steve Wiley has just written brief tutorials for creating a Vanco online account and for changing credit card numbers and amounts in Vanco. Request a copy from our Admin Assistant, Carol (530) 274-1675. And ask Steve for help if you need it.

This being my last month as Finance Chair, I want to thank you all for the amazing cooperation and help everyone has extended to me in this position and for the genuine generosity and care that you have shown for our community. My replacement in this role is Gail Schulz, new to UUCM for about six months, but a long-time UU with helpful experience in several other UU communities. I am confident that she will find the same spirit of teamwork that I have seen.

Finance Team email: Finance@uugrassvalley.org

Art & Aesthetics



*Robin Hart
Chair,
Art & Aesthetics Team*

I am so pleased at all the submissions these last two months for the Design Your Own Chalice Challenge. I love all the artistic and creative ways you have designed the chalice settings for your home altars. We even had a video from the Wileys. If you are still interested, but haven't had an opportunity to make one, you can send your chalice creations to art@ugrassvalley.org.

They will appear in the weekly chalice and Rev. Kevin will use them in the Sunday service. (Take a look at four examples below!)



I also wanted to thank everyone who participated in UUCM's first online zoom Spring Café Concert. I think it was a resounding success! We had a little of everything that night and Jordan made a fine emcee introducing all the musicians, poets, story readers and artists in real time. You are a truly talented group of people.

None of this could have happened without the technical talents of Bob Miller and his cohort Beth Karow moderating the chat and getting people signed in. I can't wait to see what's in store for the next café.

Stay well and keep a rainbow in your hearts. *- Robin*

New Member Intro



*Please Welcome
DANA TURNER,
WITH CADEN
AND COLE*

My two boys and I moved to Nevada County last summer. We have felt so warmly welcomed by you this past year and are excited that we will now officially be members. We want to participate and grow with you by practicing loving kindness and empowering ourselves to become better listeners, activists and people of this earth.

My background is in Gerontology - I have over 20 years of experience serving the aging population and plan to develop programs here locally to continue serving. Caden and Cole are settling into the local elementary schools and making friends. We like to ride our bikes around the trails and spend time exploring the river. We love it here and have found our home. We recently adopted a kitten, Pickles, and a puppy, Stella, who are keeping us entertained, grounded and humbled. We look forward to getting to know all of you.

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. Contact Anne Lyon (619-933-1618).

The IFM partnership with Gold Country Meals on Wheels is going great! More seniors continue to be added to the program through GCCS (Gold Country Community Services).

The High School Pantry will begin a new location in the Fall at Bear River High School.

Volunteers with a minimum of 12 hours who are also Briarpatch co-owners, get a 15% discount one time a month.

A Grocery Outlet fundraiser will begin July 1 with Independence from Hunger. Donate any amount at the register with all the proceeds buying food from Grocery Outlet for our families in need. The fundraiser ends July 31.

With the increased food insecurity due to COVID19, IFM needs more donations than ever. Checks can be made to: IFM at 440 Henderson Street, Grass Valley, 95945 or online at interfaithfoodministry.org.

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).





Covenant of Right Relations

Suzanne Ferroggiaro, Chair,
Covenant of Right Relations
Review/Revision Team

Covenant of Right Relations Review/Revision Update

The email below was sent out on 6/16/20. Thanks to those who have already replied with their feedback on proposed changes to our Covenant of Right Relations. Please read about our process and timeline below. **We need your feedback!**

Dear Members and Friends,
UUCM is reviewing and revising our Covenant of Right Relations (CRR) and we would like your feedback. This is part of the Board of Trustees' Governance work to align our Covenant with our Mission Statement. There is general agreement that our Covenant has served us pretty well as it is since it was created 11 years ago, and that it's just time for a few updates and tweaks. So below you will find our current CRR with proposed changes. We are asking you to send us your feedback on the proposed changes now and during the next few months as they are refined.

("Living the Covenant of Right Relations, Options for Addressing Challenges" will be reviewed at a later time.)

Our Covenant of Right Relations Review/Revision Team (CRR/RRT) is: Suzanne Ferroggiaro, Joycie Banzhaf, Elizabeth Fries, Bill Nolan, Susan Sanford, and Tom Wernigg.

HERE'S OUR TIMELINE AND PROCESS...

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER:

Gather and consider feedback on proposed changes; hold Zoom meetings for opportunities to reflect on fine tuning of changes

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER:

Submit first and final drafts to Board of Trustees for review and approval

JANUARY, 2021:

Present final draft at our Congregational Meeting

It is appropriate to begin our review in light of Rev. Kevin's sermon in January, (which is definitely worth a re-read!) <http://www.uugrassvalley.org/multimedia-archive/connected-beyond-belief-january-12-2020/>; and... considering the theme in June, "What does it mean to be a people of compassion?"; and... at this time, in the midst of racial justice issues.

As Rev. Kevin noted... "Our Covenant is about our spiritual integrity, emotional integrity, and intellectual integrity... It is about how the members/friends will be with each other, treat each other, journey together, and live in integrity with

each other... It's not about being perfect; it's about being committed to work toward health and wholeness... The behavioral covenant is meant to call us to behaviors that support the health and integrity of our relationships with each other, to remind us that it matters." And in "Behavioral Covenants in Congregations", Gilbert Rindle reminds us that, "We live our faith in the context of community."



On the following page, you'll find our current Covenant of Right Relations with proposed words to change underlined and proposed changes in bold. Please read through it and if you have feedback, send it (as succinctly as possible and **preferably in a different font color!**) to:

Suzanne Ferroggiaro suzanneferro17@gmail.com
OR Tom Wernigg tomwernigg@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you so much for your time.

- Suzanne

Covenant of Right Relations Review, Continued

Covenant of Right Relations Review & Revision, June 2020

(Proposed words to change are underlined and **proposed changes are in bold.**)

Covenant of Right Relations (different title, "**Behavioral Covenant**"?)

(Add Preamble connecting to Mission? ie... In full acceptance of our mission statement and to further its realization, we the members and friends of the Unitarian Universalists Community of the Mountains do covenant to be in community with each other in these ways...?)

Recognizing that conflict is normal (**different points of view are natural?**) in human relations and wishing to relate to others as harmoniously as possible, I sincerely intend to: (**I will?**)

- Treat others with kindness, empathy and respect.
- Communicate with patience, flexibility, and a willingness to negotiate in the spirit of meeting as many needs as possible. (**finding the best outcomes possible?**)
- Be aware of my own thoughts, feelings, and needs, and share them directly and honestly with others, without judgment or blame. (**add: ridicule? derision?**)
- Invite and listen to all points of view, respecting others' feelings and needs and encouraging minority opinions.
- Take responsibility for my own mental, emotional, and spiritual balance, asking for support when I need it.
- **(Take problems/concerns first directly, kindly, respectfully to those holding responsibility?)**
- Be mindful of the needs of the group as a whole, mourning together when individual needs cannot be met. (**While respecting individual needs, acknowledge that the health, safety, and well-being of our community transcend individual agendas? share compassionate understanding? seek restoration of harmony? forgive and reconcile?**)
- **Respect and support those holding positions of responsibility?**
- **Signature line?** _____ **Date:** _____

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. One 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. Our meetings usually last 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 Meet via Zoom

There are many groups that meet regularly at UUCM which have moved their meetings to the Zoom app while the danger of exposure to COVID-19 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



The July 1st meeting of the Humanist Discussion Group will look at the recently released bipartisan report from the American Academy of Arts & Sciences' Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship titled *Our Common Purpose, Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century*.

The report's 31 recommendations are organized in six strategies. Strategy 1 is Achieve Equality of Voice and Representation and consists of eight recommendations including substantially enlarging the House of Representatives, introducing ranked-choice voting and establishing 18 year terms for Supreme Court justices.

The entire document is worth study and consideration and its release comes at a time when the current inequities of our society are apparent to more people than ever and there might be the opportunity to enact many of these recommendations.

Here is a link to a 10+ minute long PBS Newshour piece from June 11th that interviews two of the three chairs of the commission:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/amid-inequality-and-polarization-how-can-we-strengthen-american-democracy>

And here is a link to the Commission's report:

<https://www.amacad.org/ourcommonpurpose/report>

I suggest that you listen to the interview and read the report, specifically Strategy 1, and that on July 1st we discuss its recommendations. There is enough information in this report that, if the interest is there, we could spend several meetings discussing its contents.

You can read the entire report online, download it as a pdf file, or order a free printed copy.

See you on July 1st.

For further information, or to be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan: Humanism@uugrassvalley.org

continued....

Community Connections

WALKING GROUP

Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Please contact Theresa Houtman at Walking@uugrassvalley.org to get on the list.

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE - VIA ZOOM

First Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm
Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org

WOMEN'S CIRCLE – VIA ZOOM SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM

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

Challenging White Privilege Task Force

By Reine Thibeault, CWP Task Force Chair

The Challenging White Privilege task force/discussion group is hard at work. We have just finished reading *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad. Next up is Ibram X. Kendi's *How to Be an Antiracist*. Kendi examines racism through the lenses of power, biology, ethnicity, body, and culture. Our discussion of this book will begin on July 14. (More info on page 14.) Come join us! The format will be whole group discussion along with small group conversations with two or three people.

CWP is also participating in a get out the vote campaign with Vote Forward. We are writing letters to infrequent and unregistered voters throughout the United States to encourage them to vote in the November election. CWP is hosting group parties every Thursday with entertainment provided while we prepare our letters. Join us any Thursday at 4:00 PM. if you would like to help.

Sound interesting? Want to learn more? Contact CWP Chair Reine Thibeault at rthibeault.uucm@yahoo.com for more information.

Pass the Plate

Each Month UUCM donates 25% of all undesignated Sunday offerings to an organization whose work aligns with UU values and UUCM's mission. People are also welcome to designate 100% of their offering toward the Pass-the-Plate partner of the month. If you have not found a chance to give on Sundays yet, it is not too late (see below).

In May, UUCM members and friends gave \$698 toward [Hospice of the Foothills](#). Thank you! Numbers are still coming in for [KARE Crisis Nursery](#), UUCM's June Pass-the-Plate recipient.

July's Pass-the-Plate partner is the [Bear Yuba Land Trust](#), whose mission is to protect and defend the working and natural lands of the Bear and Yuba River Watersheds and to empower healthy, resilient communities through nature access and education. With community support, the Land Trust provides a lasting community heritage by protecting and enhancing meadows, watersheds, forests, farms and ranches, trails and parks.



SEVERAL WAYS TO MAKE YOUR DONATIONS:

- You can give through [UUCM's Online Giving](#) page. (Choose Pass-the-Plate, General donation, or Pledge)
- You can mail in a check for current pledge or plate offering to UUCM, 246 South Church St, Grass Valley, CA 95945. (Please designate in the memo line whether your check is for your pledge, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- You can give through PayPal by giving to paypal.me/uucm (Please leave a note as to whether your check is for your pledge, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- For a general offering donation, you may text your amount to 833-579-0483. 25% will go to Pass-the-Plate.

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

Summer at UUCM

By Rene Wiley, Chair, Family Ministry

Coming Soon! UUCM Summer Social - grow and celebrate all of our UUCM interconnectedness! Find new and fresh ways to reach out to your community safely, **one on one**, even while a pandemic is on.

FUUSION: VIRTUALLY TOGETHER

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020 TO SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020

REGISTRATION OPENS AT NOON, JUNE 30TH

FUUSion: Virtually Together, Pacific Western Region's brand new online summer camp for High School and Middle School youth. Learn more about and register for it here:

<https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/calendar/pwr-uua/fusion-2020-virtually-together-0>

MAKE NEW UU TEEN FRIENDS VIRTUALLY!

High School Teens, ages 14-18, join others in our PWR for Hang Outs and Movie Nights. Super cool and creative!

Detailed info, including the link to sign up is here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-zAKlnzX3joI9h0fJ1NYY-iFPi-WuYSki_BpF7Pful/edit?usp=sharing



A group of high school teens from last year's PWR youth summer camp BEFORE Covid-19... this year, meet new UU friends online!

FAMILY MINISTRY MAY BE MOVING TO WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

The Family Ministry team has recently met and have many great things in store for kids and their religious exploration. We are tentatively moving RE to Wednesday evenings! There will be mystery packages delivered to families for activities to discover online together, game shows, with thematic and building block style learning with our UU values. Lindsay and Walt's dedication to RE over the years has created a wonderful place for kids to trust and just be themselves. We are SO grateful for them!



ROOTED, INSPIRED, AND READY!

Having just come from the virtual General Assembly, I'm excited to share my report.

First of all, it was inspiring to have Indigenous, People of Color, and LGBTQ leaders at the center of GA. There was a spirit of rooting ourselves in who we are, being inspired by our commitment and ready to act for collective liberation. As one of the delegates voting on behalf of UUCM, we passed the action to have the UUA focus on the challenge of 400 years of white supremacist colonialism in the U.S. and to support "Amen to Uprising." Unitarian Universalists have been joining the #resistance locally, nationally and globally, and the need for our values of justice, equity, compassion and liberation rises each day.

An energy of hope and collaboration exists to take on the current cultural shifts with young voices at the center. The UUA has been asked to invest energy and money in Youth and Young Adults and serve that ministry by providing faith formation and leadership opportunities with an expectation of new and guiding energy in Social Justice. Stay in the "movement moment"!

Full Community Education

UUCM's Summer Theme: Our UU Sources and Resources

Since Unitarian Universalism is not a creedal tradition, offering members the opportunity to explore and discern our spiritual beliefs, we members draw spiritual sustenance, insight, and wisdom from many different sources. I like to think of them as different wells that reach to different water levels and different aquifers. Or perhaps a spring is a more apt metaphor. Or maybe it's an ocean. Somehow, water is involved in my personal imagery when I think about these sources.

Of the many possibilities, members of our association have identified six primary sources in our tradition:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

This summer, our fabulous team of Worship Associates will invite us to consider and engage some aspect of each of the six sources.

Which sources speak most strongly to you? To which do you turn for sustenance, for inspiration, for anchoring, for comfort?

Our UUCM Community Invited to Read the Book "How to Be an Anti Racist"

Join members of the Challenging White Privilege Group in the study of Ibram Kendi's critically acclaimed book *How to Be an Anti Racist*. The New York Times says "What emerges from these insights is the most courageous book to date on the problem of race in the Western mind, a confessional of self-examination that may, in fact, be our best chance to free ourselves from our national nightmare."

Study groups will start on July 14. Please contact Reine Thibeault (rthibeault.uucm@yahoo.com) if you plan on joining or would like more information

The book is in high demand! We recommend ordering now either with our local <https://www.thebookseller.biz> or Barnes & Noble to assure you have a copy in time.

Book Groups

FIRST SUNDAY BOOK GROUP - JULY 5, 1:00 PM BY ZOOM

On Sunday, July 5, *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout will be led by Susan Merrill. If you have read *Olive Kitteridge*, Strout's earlier Pulitzer winner, this is an opportunity to meet Olive again as her life takes surprising turns

On Sunday, August 2, *The Overstory* by Richard Powell, a Pulitzer prize winner will be explored with Jo Waters. This novel is about nine people whose experience with trees brings them together to stop destruction of forests.

On Sunday, September 6, Reine Thibeault will guide us through the metaphysical science fiction, *Mr Penumbra's 24 Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan. You will want to know where this book is leading you.

THIRD WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP - JULY 15, 2:00 PM

On Wednesday, July 15, Theresa Houtman invites us to revisit William Least Heat-Moon in his novel *Oh America, Discovery in a New Land*. This book will be of interest to both those who read *Blue Highways* by Heat-Moon and *The Greater Journey* by David McCollough. This fiction delights with its sometimes humorous and always astute perspective of its narrator, an English physician who journeyed to America about the same time that Americans took the "Greater Journey" to Paris. We hope that both book groups will take the opportunity to read all three of these books so we can contrast and compare them.

On Wednesday, August 19, Connie Wright facilitates the discussion of *Fascism, A Warning*, by Madeleine Albright, who examines fascism in the twentieth century and the lessons of the past through her childhood experiences during war-torn Europe, and her 14 years as Secretary of State. The legacy of fascism, Albright points out, has endured through the twentieth century and now presents a more virulent threat to international peace and justice than at any time since the end of World War II. The book is a call to arms about the lessons to understand and the questions to pose to save ourselves from repeating the tragic errors of the past.

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.

July 2020 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION
JULY 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	Wednesday	8:30 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Executive Team Meeting Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
2	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Walking Group (Local Route) Forward the Vote Campaign Singing Meditation Circle
3	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
5	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Children's Connection Time Full Community Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
6	Monday	10:00 AM 10:00 AM	Monday Morning Check In Board Retreat
7	Tuesday	8:30 AM 10:00 AM 1:00 PM 4:00 PM	Walking Group Board Retreat Executive Committee Meeting Caring Team Meeting
8	Wednesday	8:30 AM 10:00 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Board Retreat Finance Committee Meeting Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
9	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM 10:30 AM 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	Men's Group Walking Group Board Retreat Writers' Group Forward the Vote Campaign Social Justice Meeting
10	Friday	3:30 PM 4:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting Friday Afternoon Check In
12	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Children's Connection Time Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
13	Monday	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Monday Morning Check In Women's Circle Zoom Meeting

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
14	Tuesday	8:30 AM 12:00 PM 4:00 PM	Walking Group Executive Committee Meeting CWP Reading Group
15	Wednesday	8:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Wednesday Book Group Ministry Council Meeting Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
16	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 4:00 PM	Men's Group Walking Group Forward the Vote Campaign
17	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
19	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Children's Connection Time Special Sunday Service w/ UUFNN Drop-in Support Circle
20	Monday	10:00 AM	Monday Morning Check In
21	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group (Deer Creek Trail)
22	Wednesday	8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
23	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM	Men's Group Walking Group Writers' Group Worship Team Meeting Forward the Vote Campaign
24	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
26	Sunday	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Children's Connection Time Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
27	Monday	10:00 AM	Monday Morning Check In
28	Tuesday	8:30 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group CWP Task Force
29	Wednesday	8:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
30	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 4:00 PM	Men's Group Walking Group Forward the Vote Campaign
31	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In



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: *(Please call in advance for an appointment.)*

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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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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