

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

August 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 and Walt at 5:15 PM on Wednesday Evenings  
For access please contact [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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**

### 2020 SUMMER SERVICES AND THEME: Our Spiritual Sources and Resources

**August 2 Find Yourself a Power Spot**  
Beth Karow, Worship Associate

On this cross quarter day, the midway point between the Summer Solstice and the Autumn Equinox, we will be exploring the 6th source that helps guide our UU faith. It is "the spiritual teaching of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature." Speaking of rhythms, you might want to grab a spoon, a pot, or something else from your kitchen for a lively bit of percussion.

**August 9 The Wisdom of Judaism**  
Chuck Champlin, Worship Leader/Associate

This service will be devoted to Jewish teachings, which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves -- one of the six sources of wisdom and spirituality from which Unitarian Universalists draw to bring meaning and insight to our UU faith. Four of our members -- Jeff Stone, Renee Weilmann, Marilyn Winters and Olivia Rivers Samson -- will weave a tapestry from their lived experiences with Judaism as they relate to the welcoming traditions of Unitarian Universalism.

**August 16 Let's Celebrate the Centennial of Women Winning the Right to Vote!**  
Allison Rivers Samson, Worship Associate

The dedication and efforts of those who accomplished the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment exemplify the second UU source of wisdom. Words

and deeds of prophetic people challenge and confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

Join us and special guest Mila Johansen who will share firsthand stories and rare photos of her suffragette grandmother, Jessie Haver Butler.

**August 23 How World Religions Shape UU Values**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
Wendy Wernigg, Worship Associate

Join us as we look toward the many ancient and diverse religions of the world to guide our UU values.

**August 30 Of Water and the Spirit**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa,  
Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

To what sources and resources do you turn for sustenance, support, comfort and anchor? All summer we've drawn upon our named Unitarian Universalist sources in the Sunday services. Here at the end, we consider them as a whole, and look to our primary sources, each of us.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

As this August Mountain Chalice goes to press, I'll be in the middle of vacation time - a chance to disengage from the "to do" list for a moment, to let my heart rate slow, and simply to be for a while. It feels like there is so much that needs to be done as we look into the picture of online and at-home life for the next month, and I'm glad and grateful for the chance to let go, to center, to look within, to re-focus. I look forward to connecting again in early August. May you be healthy, well, and finding meaningful grounding and connection.

In lieu of my column this month, I'm glad to share the words and wisdom of Carey McDonald, who serves as Executive Vice President of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

*With care,  
- Rev. Kevin*

Here's Carey McDonald's note:

I'm writing to you in the afterglow of an incredible, imaginative, powerful, and all-virtual General Assembly. With the third-largest attendance ever to the [UUA's Annual Gathering](#) (more than 4900 people!) we chatted, workshopped, listened, learned, worshipped, sang, gave, phoned, and committed to the calling of our faith to work for justice and liberation. If you registered for GA, all the content remains available online through the Participant Portal. If you missed it, you can [still watch highlights](#) like Sunday Morning Worship and more.

It hasn't been easy making the shift from the usual in-person GA to one that is entirely online. To make it work, we asked more of our staff and volunteers than is sustainable in the long run. I know many of you can relate. UU congregations have wrestled with the same kind of shifts. Months into this pandemic, so many of us are exhausted as we strive to manage changing work and family realities without a clear end in sight. So my friends, it is vital that we also take time to rest, because the road ahead is long.

***I'm thankful there is no "going back to normal."  
Instead, we go forward with the slow, hard, beautiful,  
daily work of transformation.***

Take time to rest—it's advice that I myself need to hear! President Susan Frederick-Gray is taking the week off, and I'll be following suit later this month. In fact, the UUA will be closing its virtual offices the last week in July to ensure all our

staff are able to take time to rest and reenergize as much as we can. We want to be ready for what comes next.

Going into the fall, I'm excited and humbled by work called for in the final report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change. The Commission's report and presentation was a highlight of this year's virtual GA, a culmination of their three-year process. The published report, *Widening the Circle of Concern*, is now available and lays out ten areas of recommendations to become a truly anti-oppressive faith community. It is essential reading for every Unitarian Universalist, with recommendations for the UUA, UU organizations and seminaries, and all our congregations. A free copy has been mailed to all congregations; hardcopy editions can be purchased from [InSpirit, the UUA bookstore](#), and you can [read the report online](#). And watch for opportunities from the UUA to deepen, connect, and share these transformative aspirations for our faith.

This moment has demanded something new of us. It has opened up horizons in our communities to make them accessible to a much wider set of people. It has pushed us to grapple with fault lines and shortcomings that have long been present but cannot be ignored. A culture of overwork prevents us from being present to what is most essential right now and devalues our labor. In that sense, I'm thankful there is no "going back to normal." Instead, we go forward with the slow, hard, beautiful, daily work of transformation.

We must help each other take the time we need for ourselves and our families so that we can continue on the journey. I hope you all find restoration and renewal for your spirits in the coming weeks.

Warmly,

Carey McDonald  
UUA Executive Vice President

### 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](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or (231) 883-1058  
[admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) or (530) 274-1675



*Jim Perkins, President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees*

## Your Board of Trustees

Greetings! This is my first column as your new president, and I'm delighted to have this opportunity to be of service to UUCM. After years of being a card-carrying Methodist, I dropped out and figured my church-going days were over. Then one day, and I don't remember what the impulse was, Cynthia and I wandered into UUCM and immediately felt at home. It had all the best qualities of a church without most of the negatives. It had a real sense of community, a deep reservoir of spirituality, and a strong commitment to social justice. Plus a wonderful, caring and inspiring minister.

Two other events have shaped my commitment to UUCM. The first was the experience of losing my beloved Cynthia, and all the caring and support we received from the congregation. That was what helped me survive, literally. And it meant so much to her, knowing how much she was appreciated and loved.

The second was the opportunity to work with the leadership of the congregation which enabled me to see how dedicated and committed they are to doing the work of the church. I have been so impressed with their willingness to take on work and to do it willingly and competently. I have been particularly impressed with both the Board and the Ministry Council and how well both groups work together. (That's an awkward sentence. The Board and the Council don't work together; rather each group works together very collaboratively.) The new structure of governance seems to be working out quite well, with very few problems.

The Corona virus has caused major changes in how the church carries out its business. Congratulations to Kevin and the worship team for doing such a fine job of creating our virtual services. It's really a grueling task and we will need to find a way to better support the ministry team. Also, meetings and classes seem to be carrying on well over Zoom. There is clearly something personal missing through virtual sharing, but the work carries on and gets done equally effectively.

The virus is also affecting our financial situation. We weren't very impacted this past fiscal year but assume a much greater impact this year. We hope most of our members will be able to keep up with their pledges. One small piece of good news:

we received an SBA PPP (Small Business Administration - Paycheck Protection Program) loan in the amount of \$22,017. This should pay approximately two and a half months of employee salaries.

I hope you will stay in touch to let me know how things are going for you. The best way is by email: [president@uugrassvalley.com](mailto:president@uugrassvalley.com) or by phone at 530-913-0640.

P.S. If you have computer skills (specifically Power Point and website management) and would like a job as a part-time contractor, please let me know.

*—Jim*

### UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021**

Jim Perkins	<i>President</i>
Pam Kisor	<i>Vice-President</i>
Jo Waters	<i>Secretary</i>
Bob Packard	<i>Treasurer</i>

**Members at Large:**

Janet Dunstan, Gene Gilligan & Reine Thibeault

*The August Board of Trustees business meeting will be held on Thursday, August 20, from 5:30 to 8:30 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

## Welcome to Summer

By Gwen Eymann, Co-Chair, UUCM Caring Team

Welcome to summer, welcome to Covid-19, welcome to a whole new way of living, loving, connecting. We have all been invited by Family Ministry, Membership and the Caring Team to stay connected with one another using the ideas from the UUCM Summer Social. Have a look at the messages from Family Ministry to see ways you might be able to reach out.

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 celebrations. We may not be together in person, but we are joined in spirit and caring compassion for each other.

It is with sadness that I share that Maryann Currington is leaving the caring team. She has taken on the chair position for Stewardship and that will keep her busy. She has served with the caring team since 2016 when she first joined UUCM. What courage she showed by being willing to jump into that role not knowing many in the congregation. She embraced the idea of parish care and volunteered to help with rides and phone calls. We are going to miss her calm and wise insights, and her willingness to volunteer to help whenever needed. Thank you, Maryann.

Have you ever wondered about the people on the UUCM Caring Team and why we do what we do? This is our last month to feature a statement from our team members about who we are and what this work means to us. Allow me to introduce myself, Gwen Eymann:



*"I joined the caring team when I first came to UUCM in 2004. It was my wish to serve the community in a meaningful way that allowed me to reach out and make connection with others. I have had the privilege of serving on this team since then, and it is I who have benefited the most from these meaningful connections."*

- Gwen Eymann

We are now in our fifth month of social and physical 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 forgo much, if not all, of that. We, the Caring Team, want you to know we have volunteers who are happy to reach out with phone calls,

and there are regular Zoom connections every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, as well as our Sunday Services. 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 and we are working to keep the community whole.

Please feel free to contact us by email:

[caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:caring@uugrassvalley.org) or [gweneymann@gmail.com](mailto:gweneymann@gmail.com)

### Caring Team Members:

Gwen Eymann and Tom Wernigg, *co- chairs*  
Jenny Dewey, Penny Harlan, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman, Anne Lyon



## Art & Aesthetics

Robin Hart  
Chair,  
Art & Aesthetics Team

The Art & Aesthetics Team is still accepting photos of your designs and settings for the Design Your Own Chalice Challenge. If you are still interested, but haven't had an opportunity to make one, you can send your chalice creations to [art@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:art@uugrassvalley.org).

They will appear in the weekly chalice and Rev. Kevin will use them in a Sunday service.

## WHAT'S YOUR TALENT?

Can you sing, play an instrument, tell jokes, do magic, create a skit with your family, write a story, do poetry, or have an artistic creation that you would like to share...?

**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR OUR NEXT  
UUCM SUMMER CONCERT CAFE  
TO BE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 AT 7:00 PM  
ENTRY DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 14.**

Send an email to [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) to sign up. List:

- Your name
- The talent you will be doing
- The title of the piece

*We will need you to create a video of your performance and a google drive will be set up to receive videos. (We will send out a link in the near future)*

Stay well and keep a rainbow in your hearts.

- Robin



Maryann Currington,  
Chair, Stewardship Team

## Stewardship

contact me, Maryann Currington, anytime. If you feel drawn to support your UUCM community through service, please know we would welcome you. Stewardship has much to offer.

*With love and respect,*

*– Maryann*

Stewardship Team email: [Stewardship@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Stewardship@uugrassvalley.org)

## No Summer Vacation for the Stewardship Team

Summertime is not the time for the Stewardship Team to take a vacation. It's the time for planning a year of workshops, fundraisers, and communications with our congregation to maintain the spirit of generosity of time, talent, and treasure. UUCM has a clear, beautiful, and inspiring mission. Stewardship is passionate about securing the resources to successfully implement it. In this time of COVID-19 restrictions, it is a time for creativity. For example, we're in the planning stage of an online bakery auction. If you're a baker or enjoy eating delicious home baked goodies, then watch for emails to participate. If you enjoy exploring ideas and challenging your preconceived notions of money and wealth, then look for an invitation to workshops in October.

The Team is challenged with wrapping up the 2019-2020 Pledge Year. The year began July 1, 2019, and ended June 30, 2020. If you receive a Pledge statement that indicates an outstanding balance, please check your own accounting. If we contact you, we will work with you through our system that tracks payments. You may contact me anytime at [mcurrington.uucm@gmail.com](mailto:mcurrington.uucm@gmail.com), or use the team email listed below. We appreciate your cooperation as we hope to close the books on fiscal year 2019/20 soon.

Here are some pointers for this year's pledge:

- If your pledge amount has changed from last year and you have payments made automatically, you'll need to change the pledge amount with your financial institution, or online with UUCM if you set up your payments there.
- You may make a pledge payment any time via UUCM's website: [uugrassvalley.org](http://uugrassvalley.org). Click on the Online Giving: Donate/Pay Pledge window and follow the prompts.
- You may also pay by check and mail your payment to: UUCM, 246 South Church Street, Grass Valley CA 95945. Indicate the pledge year on your check. If you are paying the balance from last year, please put 2019-2020 on the memo line of your check. If you're paying this year's pledge, please write 2020-21.

I am always here to talk to anyone about our program. Please

## 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.

Our August partner is [Color Me Human](http://Color Me Human). Color Me Human works to dismantle systems of oppression both within ourselves and within the institutions of Nevada County here on Nisenan land. Led by a multi-racial, multi-cultural, and multi-issue coalition we acknowledge, celebrate, and support the underrepresented communities in California's second whitest county. Through community education, cross-movement solidarity building, and crisis response we aim to eliminate harm inflicted on people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals in Nevada County.

## Donating Online

### There are Several Ways to Make Your Donations:

- You can give through [UUCM's Online Giving](http://UUCM's Online Giving) page. (Choose Pass-the-Plate, General donation, or Pledge)
- You can mail in a check for your 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](http://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.



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

# Covenant of Right Relations

## Covenant of Right Relations Review/Revision Update

Like the photo of many hands forming a heart below, we need each hand to complete our "heart" of UUCM. Looking forward to hearing from YOU! Thanks to all the folks who already sent feedback!

UUCM is reviewing and revising our Covenant of Right Relations (CRR) and we need our members' input. 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. On the next page, 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](mailto:suzanneferro17@gmail.com)  
OR Tom Wernigg [tomwernigg@gmail.com](mailto: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 transcends individual agendas? share compassionate understanding? seek restoration of harmony? forgive and reconcile?**)
- **Respect and support those holding positions of responsibility?**
- **Signature line?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# 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](mailto: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.

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](http://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).





# Community Connections – Online Activities

## Staying Connected through Zoom

*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](mailto: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

*(Kids' RE now meets Wednesday at 5:15 PM)*

#### 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

First Wednesdays, 11:00 AM (See More Info Below)

Contact [Humanism@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Humanism@uugrassvalley.org)

### WALKING GROUP

Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Please contact Theresa Houtman at [Walking@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Walking@uugrassvalley.org) to get on the list.

### SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE - VIA ZOOM

First Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM

Contact [SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 AM - contact [Men@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Men@uugrassvalley.org)

Thursday mornings, 8:30 to 10:00 AM, contact [BookMen@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:BookMen@uugrassvalley.org)

### HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP'S

#### AUGUST TOPIC

By George Dunstan

The August 5th meeting (starting at 11:00 AM) of the Humanist Discussion Group will continue our 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



## Community Connections

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. At our July meeting we discussed the first four of eight recommendations in Strategy 1 and in August we will continue with the remaining four.

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 August 5th.

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

## Full Community Ed

### UUCM's Summer Theme: Our UU Sources and Resources

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa

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?

## Book Groups

### FIRST SUNDAY BOOK GROUP - AUGUST 2, 1:00 PM BY ZOOM

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 - AUGUST 19, 2:00 PM

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](mailto:BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org) to RSVP or with questions.

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](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org)

## Summer at UUCM

By Rene Wiley, Chair, Family Ministry

### NEW TIME FOR KIDS' RE

Kid's RE has moved to Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM! Kids of all ages explore their UU faith and find connection with fun and games led by Walt and Lindsay.

### YOUTH (AGES 13-15) MENTORSHIP/JOURNALING

Starting this fall for youth ages 13 to 15: a unique mentorship-while-journaling opportunity in faith development. Join the conversation about how this can work for a young person in your life by emailing [Familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Familyministry@uugrassvalley.org)

We are offering the **To This I Give My Heart** journal which documents and explores UU values and personal beliefs while in conversation with a mentor chosen with careful consideration by the youth and Rev. Kevin. The mentor pairing could be a grandparent and grandchild in a wonderful Covid-safe connection!



Gwen Eymann and Anita Wald-Tuttle enjoy a safe, masked, socially-distant, outdoor conversation. You can, too!

### SAFE & SIMPLE IN-PERSON SOCIALS VISITS

We are already hearing about the wonderful visits among those who have chosen to reach out safely. Give the gift of presence. Here is some encouragement to pick a few people to get to know better and feel the joy that comes when we find the beauty in another's unique personal story.

## You're Invited to the UUCM Summer Social!

### An All Ages event connecting us person-to-person, household-to-household

With the support of Rev. Kevin Tarsa and the UUCM Board, the Family Ministry, Caring and Membership teams are offering up fresh ways for our UUCM community to reach out and reconnect, even in challenging COVID times. Our goal is to create new bonds and strengthen existing ones with a relational ministry of listening and sharing, while holding a commitment to safety.

For some, the array of UUCM online opportunities "in the cloud" provide plenty of social connection. Some others may have a passion to revive letter writing and sending via snail mail. We acknowledge, too, that many others are missing person-to-person connection – so let's celebrate our interconnectedness with creativity! Now more than ever, it is vital that people feel seen and heard with compassion and a supportive reminder that we are not alone.

Important to know: church-sanctioned small group gatherings are not possible at this time. Keeping with current CDC guidelines (linked at the end) we can lower risk and meet our collective need for real community. More details to follow.

***This is an official ask that our board and ministry team leaders kick off the Summer Social, and show us all how it's done!***

For starters, let's view Summer Social as an optional celebration rather than a obligation. We can reach out as we are willing and able, once a week or so, and keep visits brief.

We suggest simply phoning a member to say, "Hello!" A little conversation can make a huge difference in someone's day.



### DUST OFF THE UUCM

#### DIRECTORY

*...and dial someone you haven't seen in a while. Extra karma points for getting to know a new-to-you person better.*

If you feel nervous about initializing a conversation, here are some ideas and prompts to get you going:

# UUCM Family Ministry

- What initially drew you to Unitarian Universalism? ...and what keeps you UU?
- What's the best thing you've learned during Covid?
- How is it with your spirit? ...have you found beauty in nature or a spiritual practice this week?
- What is it about this congregation that sparks you?

## WHY NOT ARRANGE FOR A SAFE VISIT?

The board recommends safely visiting with no more than yours and one other household at a time. Remember, small gatherings are deemed too risky now. Keep outdoors, use masks, perhaps wear gloves, disinfect everything, and keep a distance of *at least 6 feet*. Please take precautions to minimize risk – quarantine yourself, get a test – if you think you may have been exposed to the virus.

Begin by asking if they are comfortable with a visit and agree on safety protocol ahead of time.

Even with a mask and at a distance, it is amazing to experience a real smile and see the light in a fellow community member's eyes. Who knows, some may break out in a happy dance just for being able to see one another! Please use your best judgement and stay COVID-vigilant.

### Some starter ideas:

- Drive by with a friendly wave!
- Pick a garden bouquet to share
- Go for a walk together
- We've heard tell of delightful "cookie bombs" and other delicious deliveries from members
- Bring your own chair to a driveway chat
- Do you play a portable musical instrument?  
...Consider a front porch recital
- Have an abundance of garden veggies to share?
- Participate in the summer tradition of "Give Away the Ridiculously Overgrown Zucchini"
- Do you have a puzzle to send on to a new home?
- Pass on a terrific book
- Gift a small painted rock
- and more....!

From the many COVID-safe possibilities, bring your own unique gift of attention and kindness.

We see these small but generous acts of compassion and gratitude as a step toward healing our collective longing for reconnection. Remember that we are the glue that keeps our UUCM community together. You are vitally important.



*Jenny Dewey and Rene Wiley enjoy a porch visit.*

How nurtured might our network be if every member aimed to reach out to one or two members a week? With courageous love and a sense of wonder, our hope is that we would find ourselves more supported and better connected than ever before.

So may it be!

*With gratitude,*

- Rene Wiley - Family Ministry  
- Jenny Dewey - Caring Team  
- Shannon Dooley Miller - Membership

## SHARE A PHOTO OF YOUR VISIT!

With consent from both parties, please email a video or photo of your Summer Social visits to (subject: Summer Social) [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org) so that the online congregation shares in the greeting.

CDC safety guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

And remember, use your judgement and above all, be safe!

# August 2020 Calendar of Events at UUCM

## DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

### AUGUST 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
2	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM	Full Community Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Book Group
3	Monday	10:00 AM	Monday Morning Check-in via Zoom
4	Tuesday	8:30 AM 1:15 PM 4:00 PM	Walking Group Art Exploration Group (closed) Caring Team Meeting
5	Wednesday	8:30 AM 11:00 AM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group via Zoom Kids' RE Connection Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
6	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 4:00 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group via Zoom Walking Group Forward the Vote Campaign John Lewis Film Singing Meditation Circle
7	Friday	4:00 PM 4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check-in via Zoom Soulful Parents' Meeting
9	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
10	Monday	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Monday Morning Check-in via Zoom Women's Circle Potluck
11	Tuesday	8:30 AM 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	Walking Group CWP Reading Group Executive Committee Meeting
12	Wednesday	8:30 AM 4:30 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting Kids' RE Connection Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
13	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 4:00 PM	Men's Group via Zoom Walking Group Writers' Group Forward the Vote Campaign
14	Friday	4:00 PM 4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check-in via Zoom Soulful Parents' Meeting

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
16	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
17	Monday	10:00 AM	Monday Morning Check-in via Zoom
18	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group
19	Wednesday	8:30 AM 2:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Wednesday Book Group Kids' RE Connection Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
20	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 4:00 PM 5:30 PM	Men's Group via Zoom Walking Group Forward the Vote Campaign Board of Trustees Meeting
21	Friday	4:00 PM 4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check-in via Zoom Soulful Parents' Meeting
22	Saturday	7:00 PM	Summer Concert Café
23	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
24	Monday	10:00 AM	Monday Morning Check-in via Zoom
25	Tuesday	8:30 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group CWP Task Force
26	Wednesday	8:30 AM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Kids' RE Connection Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle
27	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM	Men's Group via Zoom Walking Group Writers' Group Worship Team Meeting Forward the Vote Campaign
28	Friday	4:00 PM 4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check-in via Zoom Soulful Parents' Meeting
30	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
31	Monday	10:00 AM	Monday Morning Check-in via Zoom



## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Telephone: 530.274.1675      Website: [www.uugrassvalley.org](http://www.uugrassvalley.org)

**Normally: Two Sunday Services: at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM**  
**... During the COVID-19 Stay-at-Home: 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

### UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*  
Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*  
Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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### TELEPHONE

530.274.1661  
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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](mailto:MtChalice@uugrassvalley.org)**

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

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