

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

January 2021

## UPCOMING SERVICES

*Our Sunday Services are held online and via phone – in Stay-at-Home mode - until further notice. 10:30 AM each Sunday.*

### TO JOIN THE SERVICE ON SUNDAYS:

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

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

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

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

### Connection Time for Kids is on Zoom

led by Lindsay and Walt at 5:15 PM on Wednesday Evenings

For access please contact [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org)

### JANUARY THEME:

**What Does it Mean to be a People of Imagination?**

### WORSHIP ASSOCIATE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:

**Gail Johnson Vaughan**

#### January 3 *Imagine*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa

*What is the place of imagination in our lives - our spiritual, emotional, and intellectual lives - especially in these times? We begin the new year by introducing our January theme of Imagination, and meet again the Roman god Janus as he looks back and looks forward. But what about NOW?*

#### January 10 *In This Moment, In This Breath*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa

*Underneath our differences, we can recognize a set of universal human needs, says the Rev. Cat Cox. That's the place to start, she teaches, if we want to get past what feel like irreconcilable differences. This Sunday, we focus on our interpersonal relationships as we continue to explore the crucial zone of possibility between stimulus and response. Goodness knows we're going to need it!*

#### January 17 *Dare We Dream?*

Gail Johnson Vaughan

*Who among us is not inspired by Dr Martin Luther King Jr's "I Had a Dream" speech? For many it guides our action and fills our imaginations of a world more just. But what if the dream is deferred or worse yet,*

*denied? Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem" stands with King's dream as bookends to the chronic tragedy that holds our country back from fulfilling our national pledge of liberty and justice for all. This Sunday we celebrate Dr. King's birthday with a tapestry of reflections on what happens when such a dream is deferred.*

#### January 24 *Healing the Heart of Democracy*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa

*What will it take, now, and in this environment, to "create a politics worthy of the human spirit?" What can we discover as we mind the current gap, as we tend the open wound? And what sustaining possibilities can we imagine as we peer into it?*

#### January 31 *What if a Word Could Change Your Life?*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa

*Imagine if we each found a word that could give us a sense of control of an important part of our life, allow us more joy, overcome a persistent obstacle. Imagine if UUCM found such a word. Imagine if we each danced with that word all year. This Sunday we will explore how to open ourselves to that word finding us, and how to use that word to expand the lens through which we see ourselves and our world.*

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*Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister*

## From the Minister

*What does it mean to be a people of imagination?*

We are going to find out!

In this new year, if we remain mired in the ways we've always seen and understood and done things, we will not only miss the opportunities that are opening before us, but also risk harm to ourselves and others. Whether welcome or worrisome, the "unprecedented" elements arising in our lives are asking that we let new connections form in our awareness, our synapses, and our behaviors. We are going to need to be flexible, creative, wiley, even. And, quite possibly, subversive.

For me, imagination in this time won't be about seeing in my mind's eye the happy future that I desire and then simply trying to manifest what I envision. It will be about staying clear in my values and what I believe matters most, while continually taking in the wider scope of what's happening, staying calmly and passionately alert (yes, both), and remaining open to seeing the forward-leading avenues when they become visible for a few moments at a time. Agility comes to mind.

The compassionate mystics of many religious traditions have for centuries been encouraging us to let go, to surrender our rigidity, our expectations, and our grasping. If that didn't work, Trump's behaviors may fling us a good ways down the path. It is to our health and benefit to understand that things aren't necessarily exactly as we thought. And it is important to come to terms with that soon if we want to respond nimbly and helpfully and not waste energy in fretting.

Imagination asks us to say, "Okay, here we are. Not what I was expecting, but here we are. What do we see if we look honestly and carefully? Given what I see, where can I invest my energies toward health and wholeness? Toward protection of the vulnerable? Toward the common good values that matter to me?"

I don't know where we are headed as a nation, or what this new year's path will bring for the world or for this UU Community. I do know that along the way, our flexible and creative imaginations will be a key resource. Not only a mental resource, but a spiritual and emotional resource, a resource relied upon by all our religious ancestors.

We will need such imagination right here, and we will need it to meet the unfolding world beyond the bounds and bonds of UUCM.

Ready?

Here comes 2021!

I'm with you!

*- Rev. Kevin*

## Wanting to Learn More about UUCM and Unitarian Universalism?

Learn by experiencing it!

If you've been attending services and are curious, join Rev. Kevin, Dawn Bateman, other newer folks, and a few existing members for fun and meaningful connection as well as information.

Come first for "**Entry Point**," a single, introductory session to be held in the third week of January. All are welcome!

If that piques your interest, sign up for Starting Point, five rich sessions of connection and learning in February and early March. [Starting Point](#) presents Unitarian Universalism and membership as ongoing journeys, and rather than simply talking about Unitarian Universalism, seeks to give participants an experience of it. (This part of the series asks for a commitment to attend all five sessions.)

To learn more and to sign up for **Entry Point**, contact [membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org).

### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

*While the pandemic keeps us home,  
Rev. Kevin no longer has "drop-in" office hours.*

*Please contact Rev. Kevin or our Office Administrator  
to schedule appointments.*

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

## Board of Trustees



*Jim Perkins, President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees*

We have been having a very interesting series of Zoom meetings dealing with the Open Question of: How do we strengthen and sustain community for UUCM now? There was obviously a lot of discussion about Zoom and its pros and cons, including how to integrate Zoom into our congregational life once the pandemic is over. Here is a representative sample of comments:

- I felt that everyone missed being at UUCM for in-house service. But the Zoom meetings also promoted a different and positive way for some to connect. Some suggested that maybe when we get back to in-house that we could have a Zoom service in addition to the in-person service.
- There were the feelings that center around the lack of physical presence/missing the group/gestalt and missing music sung together. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and on Zoom we are all parts.
- For me the biggest issue was people talking about how this technology has connected them to people they may never have talked to, so how do we continue that when we meet again in person? Old patterns can reemerge quickly.

Clearly these were rich conversations about the importance of community in our life together at UUCM. You'll be hearing more about these issues in the future.

In other news, Phil Hart has agreed to head up the committee on the endowment and he needs some volunteers to support him. He specifically needs someone with good writing skills to create articles for the Mountain Chalice and other emails, and a good administrative type to keep track of the details and the paperwork. Other volunteers are welcome as well. If you're interested in exploring one of these options, give either Phil or me a call.

### 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 next Board of Trustees business meeting will be held on the third Wednesday, January 20, at 3:30 PM for a Closed Check In, then will open to the public at 4:00 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.*

Board meetings are open to members and friends starting at 4:00 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. A Zoom link goes out every month or you can contact our Board Secretary, Jo Waters, at: [secretary@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:secretary@uugrassvalley.org).

Stay well,

*—Jim*

### UUCM Bylaws Update

*By Jim Perkins, President, UUCM Board of Trustees*

UUCM bylaws will have a fresh new look in January 2021. Among the changes are reformatting, sections moved, words updated or added for clarity, and duplicate statements removed. The proposed bylaws reflect our new governing structure with a focus on our mission. Modifications will be marked and annotated for distribution to Members and Friends. The final Q & A opportunities are scheduled for Wednesday, January 6 at 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM. Please join us at either or both sessions. Zoom links will be sent.



## Stewardship

Maryann Currington,  
Chair, Stewardship Team

2020, as you're reading this, is already a memory. A year like no other and a year that brought out the best in us! We no longer gather in our warm and comforting church building, but so many have worked diligently to give us Sunday Services that are moving and memorable through the miracles of modern technology! Our ministries teams are keeping us connected to our UU values. It seems there isn't a day without a Zoom link offering connection. UUCM has maintained a strong presence in our lives despite the isolation of quarantining for the pandemic.

The generosity of time and talent to maintain our high level of connectedness is being matched by our generosity of treasure. Our Pledges and donations, so appreciated, keep our beloved Church financially supported.

Please continue to be generous in 2021. If you have any questions about your Pledge, please contact Maryann Currington at [murrington1944@gmail.com](mailto:murrington1944@gmail.com).

The Stewardship Team wishes you a joyful and healthy 2021!

- Maryann

## Online Giving

### HERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO GIVE TO UUCM...

- \* If you do online banking, you can set up your UUCM Pledge as a montly "bill" and then relax...your bank will automatically send a check out on the date(s) you specify.
- You can give through [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, including the pledge year, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- You can give through PayPal at: [paypal.me/uucm](https://paypal.me/uucm) (Please leave a note as to whether your offering 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 automatically go to Pass-the-Plate.



## Caring Team

Gwen Eymann  
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team

### Welcome to 2021!

We made it! May this year bring renewal to each of you. May it bring a safer world, and a virus under control. We are not out of the woods yet, but there is a light and there is hope. 2020 will be a year we will never forget and it will live on in infamy. But I say to 2020, "Good riddance."

We continue to need to be resilient and we must continue to find safe ways of being together. Our UU faith calls upon us to be guided by love, hope, kindness and compassion. Please, stay connected with one another, offer support, make a call, reach out. We all need it.

We, at the Caring Team, want you to know we have volunteers who are happy to reach out with phone calls, to send cards, to shop or run essential errands. If you have need of any of these services, please reach out if we can be of help.

We are staying connected in the safe ways we can and we are working to keep the community whole. If you have suffered the loss of a beloved pet, UUAM offers a nationwide support group on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM PST. The link for the zoom meeting is: [tinyurl.com/UUAMChaplain](https://tinyurl.com/UUAMChaplain)

-Gwen

Please feel free to contact us by email:

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

### Parish Care Team Members:

Gwen Eymann, *chair*,  
Jenny Dewey, Penny Harlan, Robin Hart,  
Carol Hyndman, Anne Lyon, and Holly Rice





# Justice News and Activities

## Justice News

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 5:00 PM**

The UUCM Justice Team meets monthly for planning and welcomes your particular energy and talents. It also alerts members and friends to arising justice opportunities. This month, the Justice Team meets on the Third Thursday, January 21 at 5:00 PM.

For more information, 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 Covid, volunteers are needed even more, but 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).

### **INTERFAITH FOOD MINISTRY (IFM) UPDATE**

IFM and volunteers are busy gearing up for the Holiday Season! Paulette's Spaghetti Dinner & Hunger Run were both successful, fun and fruitful community events.

IFM and United Way of Nevada County are partnered to provide supplemental groceries to students and their families at three local high schools this fall.

Food drives have been a great way to get involved, supporting those in need this challenging year!

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Spreadsheet Maintenance
  - Donor letter stuffing
  - Hand letter writing to donors
  - Phone calls to donors
- Contact Naomi Cabral at [naomidd.ifm@gmail.com](mailto:naomidd.ifm@gmail.com)

Volunteers are needed for all weekly packing and distribution shifts: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 AM - 2 PM  
Tuesday and Thursday from 8 AM - 11 AM  
Contact Anna Gloria @ [agloria.ag@att.net](mailto:agloria.ag@att.net)

### **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).

# Justice News and Activities

## It's Time to Get Your Yard Sign!

By Bob Miller, Justice Team Member

Your UU front yard is just not complete without a sign that announces your concern for the environment! Here is your opportunity to get your very own Citizens' Climate Lobby yard sign and do your part to populate Nevada County lawns and gardens with them.

Your UUCM Carbon Dividend Task Force, in conjunction with the local chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, has been seeking ways to demonstrate support for climate change mitigation that is compatible with avoiding the virus. The answer: YARD SIGNS!

We have the signs. And we deliver to your door! We just need YOU to place a sign in your yard. You can do this for a week or you can keep it there until we have made real progress. If you *really* love the planet then get three signs. Place one in your yard and ask two friends to put them in their yards and encourage them to get two more. This is called going viral. It works for you-know-what so why not for CCL yard signs?

We are collecting photos of signs in people's yards with or without the property owner. Join your UUCM friends SHOWN below by putting a sign in YOUR yard!

We are paying about \$13 for each sign. If you want to contribute, we'd be happy to accept donations, but we are happy to make the signs available at no cost to you.

To get your sign(s) contact me at:  
[bob@sierramiller.com](mailto:bob@sierramiller.com)



## 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.

Thanks to UUCM's generous members and friends, UUCM's November Pass-the Plate partner, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#), will receive \$1225.50! Such support is needed now more than ever. Thank you, everyone!

We are currently completing December collections for [Hospitality House](#).



January's partner is [Sierra Roots](#), which is committed to providing a secure and safe place for people who are chronically homeless. [Sierra Roots](#) employs a relationship-based approach that identifies individual needs and preserves the dignity of each person.

*Your ongoing support for our partners allows us to make a meaningful difference together!*

# 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.

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.

### WEEKLY @ UUCM

Watch your email for links and phone numbers. If you need links, please contact [uucmOnline@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:uucmOnline@uugrassvalley.org)

### 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 45 to 50 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

Wednesday, January 6, 10:30 AM

Here is the Zoom meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92259246223?pwd=ZG10YlpXSkrHcDkxaGRSMWV1enVsdz09>



For January we are asking you to pick a general topic from the "Our Common Purpose" document that we talked about for several months or any other topic of concern to our country and the world (e.g. education, health care, child care, climate change, race relations, policing, environment, foreign relations, economics, etc.) Then describe how the Biden administration could make things better given what we know about his policy statements and his picks for his cabinet, advisors, and other positions.

When we gather on January 6th we'll see what topics have been chosen, arrange the discussion, and hear what everyone has to say. I hope you are inspired and that this exercise might leave you, and us all, with a bright outlook for the future.

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

## WALKING GROUP

Cancelled for January. 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. This month, after our initial check in, Reine Thibault will be leading a fun Zoom game called "Reverse Charades." Come make connections with other UUCM women, and have a few laughs with us. 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 others' company.

Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 AM, and/or

Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 AM.

Contact for either group: [mensgroup@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:mensgroup@uugrassvalley.org)



*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)

## *January at UUCM's Family Ministry*

UUCM Family Ministry brings all ages to the multi-generational table. Here's what is happening this month!

### *UU KIDS OF ALL AGES JOIN 59KIDS CONNECTION 59KIDS RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION GROUP, WEDNESDAY EVES AT 5:15 TO 6:00 PM.*

This month the kids will figure out how imagination can be used to enhance their world with fun games and discussions led online by Lindsay and Walt (while the grownups at home have a rare hour to themselves!)

Contact [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org) for info.

### *TO THIS I GIVE MY HEART - AGES 14-15*

Let the journey begin! Youth ages 14-15 will meet with their chosen mentors and enter a discovery of growth and personal meaning. We look forward to Spring to learn more about these young folks and what they've found along the way together!

### *YOUNG ADULTS - AGES 18-35*

Check out the Sweet Potato Newsletter - a bi-monthly round-up of online UU young adult ministries, media and more!

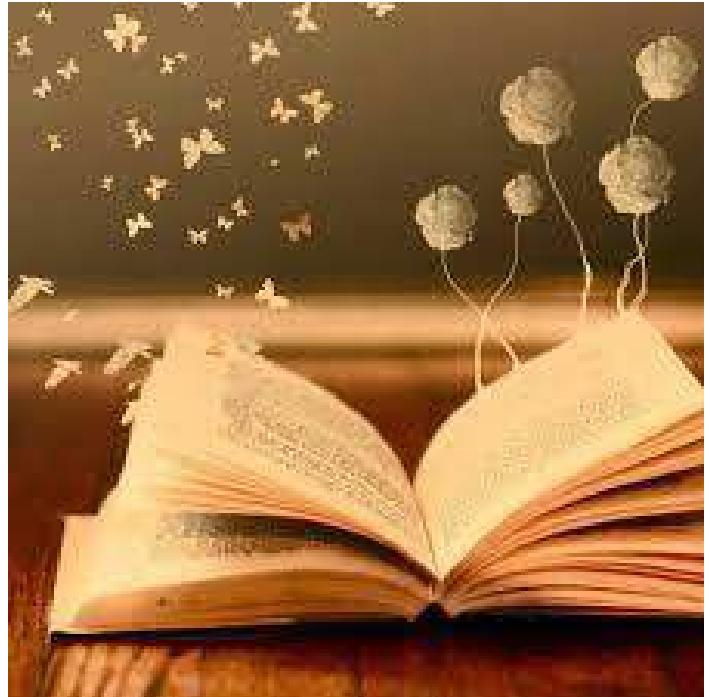
[www.uuyarn.org/newsletter](http://www.uuyarn.org/newsletter)

## *Enhance Your Home Chalice for January – Imagination*

*By Rene Wiley and  
 Soul Matters Creator, Katie Covey*



We have been enjoying the full benefit of creating an altar space with our chalice at home. With January's arrival, take this fresh start and imagine how to engage with the new year. While many challenges remain with us, the future is new and hopeful. Consider this invitation to use our new theme of Imagination as we take a deep look at the wisdom of the many stories and creative solutions we can employ to better the world around us. Enhance your home chalice this month with a ritual to explore the places where Imagination can center us and grow our faith.



### **THE IMAGINED STORY THAT HAS SHAPED YOUR REAL LIFE STORY**

This worship's symbolic token/object(s) - one of your beloved books - will act as a reminder of this gift of imagination and the special role stories play in our lives. And if you find yourself wishing to re-read your favorite story, of course, remove it from the Chalice Home! Just place it there when you aren't reading it to remind you to keep story and imagination in your life.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Invite each family or household member to think of one of the books which has most shaped their life. For young children, it will likely be a book read to them at bedtime which is their favorite. For older children, it might be a series they've read or are reading. For adults, it might be a book read during a difficult time in their lives. Whichever it is, search your imagination (and bookshelves) to find it. If you don't have the book on your bookshelves, write the title and author on a card folded to stand like a book. (This may prompt you to buy it or borrow it from a library! While you are at it, why not read it and let it into your imagination again?!)

Bring those stories that have impacted you, challenged you, comforted you. Whether it is through stories like Lord of the Rings or classic fairy tales, there is something powerful about using your imagination to visit and create new places. It allows us to transcend our limits and indulge in an escape now and then.



## UUCM Family Ministry

### USE THIS CHALICE LIGHTING (OR WRITE ONE OF YOUR OWN):

*May the light of this chalice  
spark our imaginations.  
May it lead us back to the stories and characters  
that romp and roam the corridors of our minds.  
In the warmth of this chalice, may we remember again  
how thankful we are  
to have others who love us,  
and guide and accompany us,  
as our own stories unfold.*

### ADD YOUR BOOKS TO YOUR CHALICE HOME:



Reflect and share how the chosen books have guided your life.

*"I place this book to remind me how day after day stories and imagination guide me on my way"*

All respond with:  
*"May our lives be filled with stories and imagination!"*

### BLESS YOUR OBJECTS

"[Spirit of Life and Love], We give thanks for the many ways each of us finds moments of clarity and escape in these books. May we remember to celebrate story and imagination in our lives. May our stories and imagination bring moments of needed escape and wisdom when we need it most."

As you bring your family worship to a close, pause for a moment to think ahead about the coming weeks and make an imagination intention/promise for how you want to act, what you want to remember, or how you want to treat others.

*"In the coming weeks, to honor my favorite story, I promise to \_\_\_\_\_."*

### EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

*"We gather the warmth of love,  
the light of truth, and the energy of action into our hearts.  
As we return to the world of do and say,  
May we carry these gifts forward into the dawning day.  
Go now in peace.  
Amen"*

### INSTRUCTIONS:

*Use your hands in a gather/cupping gesture and bring them to your heart. Repeat after the "warmth of love," "the light of truth," and the "energy of action."*

## Book Groups



### SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

On January 10, (*please note date change!*) at 1:00 PM, we will meet Gloria Steinem in her book, *My Life on The Road*, facilitated by Ruth Edwards. This funny, moving and profound book is the story of Steinem's growth and the growth of the movement for equality and how surprising encounters on the road shape both. You may wish to view "The Glorias," a film based on the book on Amazon Prime before this discussion.

Our February 7 book, *The Leavers*, by Lisa Ko, will be explored with the help of Jo Waters.

On March 4, Joel Houtman will lead us into discussion of *Jack*, by Marilynne Robinson. This book focuses on the titular son of a reverend, who in the 1950's Midwest decides to marry a black woman and suffer whatever consequences may come. Above all, a transcendent love story.

On April 11, (*note date change*) we will enjoy *The Story of a Goat*, by Perumal Murugan, with Susan Merrill. There is a long tradition of coded pet parables but few are as heart rendering as this story of a runty goat subject to all of the suffering and solace that visits modern India. Its author turned to allegory after being persecuted for writing about India's ills more directly.

### THIRD WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP -

On Wednesday, January 20, we will discuss *Nights Nothing Happened* by Simon Tan. This has been called a tender, spiky family saga about love in all its mysterious incantations. Theresa Houtman will lead.

On February 17, Kate Canan will help us delve into the life of Meg Barnhouse, UU minister, a musician and writer from Austin, Texas in *Seeds of a Spirited Life*. She will send information about ordering this book since it is not available as an ebook.

On March 17, *Perestroika in Paris*, by Jane Smiley will be explored with Joel Houtman. This is described as a brilliantly imaginative story of three extraordinary animals and a young boy whose lives intersect in Paris.

All are invited to join by Zoom. Contact Theresa Houtman, (530) 277-9294 or [BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org) with questions or to be included in the mailing list.



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

From the  
*Soul Matters Authors*

Maybe our most important work is to re-imagine imagination.

Imagination's great gift is *improvement*. At least that is what we're usually taught. The deep magic lies in the way it can reshape our reality.

We are urged to imagine the world we dream of. A world with more justice. More peace. More love. From that, a mysterious magnetism arises, a magnetism that pulls our imperfect present into an improved future. Imagination moves us forward. It makes us better.

Yet there's a way in which this view of imagination impoverishes us. It steals the stage. Shuts out imagination's *other* precious gifts.

For instance, think of what happened when you got out of bed this morning. After a shower and a cup of coffee, you didn't just pull on fresh clothes, you also pulled out a jewelry box and slipped on your grandmother's ring. As you slid it on your finger, she slid, not just into your memory, but into your day. Now, because of imagination, you aren't just elegant; you're *accompanied*. Or how about that invisible friend of yours when you were a child? Imagination made sure you didn't travel through those early years alone. It conjured up a loyal friend. Even today, amidst the hustle and bustle of adult life, tell me you don't hear the guidance of ancestors and friends all day long. It's all one giant reminder that imagination doesn't just improve our lives, it populates it.

And *illuminates* it too. That's right. Imagination isn't just a force that drives us forward toward a more perfect future, it also pulls the sacred into our impoverished present. Imagination is what transforms trees from potential firewood into wise friends. Imagination is what moves us from lording over the natural world to seeing ourselves as part of it. It gives the world a soul. And not just the natural world, but the ordinary world too. Through the lens of imagination, we perceive the common as precious, even miraculous. The laughter of our children

becomes the sound of angels. Sunshine on our face becomes a greater treasure than gold. Our "everyday" lives are understood as amazing adventures and inexplicably lucky gifts.

So friends, this month, do everything you can to soak in *the many* messages of imagination. It's not just shouting, "Improve the world!" It's also pleading, "Let the world come alive!"

## Upcoming Soul Matters Themes

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Throughout the year, UUCM draws on monthly themes to help us explore our spiritual, emotional and intellectual lives. The Minister and Worship Team members are always looking for stories, poems, artwork, music, rituals, readings, reflections, quotes, and images related to the themes.

We invite you to look ahead to the upcoming themes. What comes to mind and heart for you? Please share any resources you know or have created, and please keep your hearts, eyes, and ears open all year for anything that might help us help each other enter these themes meaningfully.

Please send your suggestions and ideas to [worship@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:worship@uugrassvalley.org) or [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or to any of the worship associates:

### What does it mean to be a people of ...

January:	Imagination
February:	Beloved Community
March:	Commitment
April:	Becoming
May:	Story
June:	Play



# Soul Matters

# January 2021 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
<b>JANUARY 2021</b>			

*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.*

1	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
3	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
4	Monday	6:30 PM	Soul Matters Exploratorium
5	Tuesday	4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
6	Wednesday	8:30 AM 10:30 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Bylaws Q & A Session Bylaws Q & A Session Choir Rehearsal
7	Thursday	8:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Singing Meditation
8	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
10	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Book Group
11	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Zoom Gathering
13	Wednesday	8:30 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting Choir
14	Thursday	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Men's Group via Zoom Writers' Group
15	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
16	Saturday	2:00 PM	Congregational Visioning Workshop
17	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
20	Wednesday	8:30 AM 2:00 PM 3:30 PM 4:00 PM 4:30 PM	Men's Group Wednesday Book Group Board of Trustees Closed Meeting BoT Meeting Open to Visitors Ministry Council Meeting
21	Thursday	8:00 AM 7:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM	Men's Group Choir Board of Trustees Meeting Social Justice Meeting
22	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
24	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle Congregational Business Meeting
26	Tuesday	4:00 PM	CWP Task Force
27	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
28	Thursday	8:00 AM 10:30 AM 3:00 PM	Men's Group Writers' Group Worship Team Meeting
29	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
31	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle





## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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

**Sunday services are currently held at 10:30 AM via Zoom**

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

### Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

*While the pandemic keeps us home, Rev. Kevin's office hours are by appointment.*

Contact Rev. Kevin at (231) 883-1058 or [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

### UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

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

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

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

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

### VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS:

*Kathy MacLeod, Editing, and Kathryn Young, Design/Layout*

*Staff Contributors: Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Carol Fulkerson*