

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

February 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

FEBRUARY THEME:

What Does it Mean to be a People of Beloved Community?

February 7 Languages of Love

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Wendy Wernigg, Worship Assoc.

We tend to express love and care in the “language” that is most natural to us, yet sometimes the person receiving our communication speaks a different language, and so the message is not quite received. More than 25 years ago Gary Chapman named this, to the benefit of many relationships. Being aware of the “Languages of Love” can help us strengthen our friendships, our intimate relationships, and our community. We’ll enter our month-long focus on Beloved Community by starting close to the heart. What is your most natural love language?

February 14 Side with Love! with UUs from around the nation

Jeff Stone, Worship Associate

Thirty Days of Love is an annual celebration that runs approximately from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January through Valentine’s Day in February. It lifts up the ways Unitarian Universalists and many of our partner organizations are building and organizing by taking bold, courageous action for intersectional racial justice. Side with Love, a UUA-sponsored interfaith public advocacy campaign, is preparing a service of “stirring music, deep-hearted reflection, and moving testimonies from a range of UU leaders.” We’ll draw on these offerings, and weave them within some of our own congregation’s traditions.

February 21 The Spirit of Mutual Love: UUism Beyond UUCM

with our local UU Neighbors, Rev. Kevin and Beth Karow, Worship Associate

We readily celebrate UU congregations’ freedom to make their own decisions, to be individuals. This matches the personal, independent spirits and personalities of so many of our members. And yet, UUCM is not alone. Just as members of individual UU congregations promise (covenant) to walk together in love, member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association also promise to walk together in love, to offer mutual support. We’ll celebrate this larger sense of Beloved Community by weaving together offerings from our sister UU congregations nearby, in a new kind of tapestry service.

February 28 ‘Til Love Wins: Claiming an 8th Principle

Rev. Kevin Tarsa and UUCM’s Challenging White Privilege Task Force, Gail Johnson Vaughan, WA

In the fall, Rev. Kevin suggested that UUCM adopt the 8th Principle that’s been proposed in the UUA, a commitment to – “[journey] toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” With Rev. Kevin, UUCM’s Challenging White Privilege Task Force celebrates and launches this invitation.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Item	Page
Upcoming Services	1
From Rev. Kevin Tarsa.....	2
Board of Trustees	3
Endowment Legacy.....	4
Visioning Event.....	5
Stewardship/Online Giving	5
Caring	6
Building and Grounds.....	6
Justice News and Activities.....	7
Art & Aesthetics.....	8
Pass the Plate	8
Community Connections	9
UUCM Family Ministry	10-11
Book Groups.....	11
Full Community Education/Soul Matters	12
Monthly Calendar.....	13
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours	14



Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

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 or (231) 883-1058
admin@uugrassvalley.org or (530) 274-1675

What does it mean to be a people of Beloved Community?

In another meaningful and timely move, we transition from January's theme of Imagination to February's theme of Beloved Community, a term coined by Grass Valley's own Josiah Royce and carried to new depth by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For Royce, "Beloved Community" is one way to name the ideal community of all those who would be fully dedicated to the cause of loyalty, truth and reality itself.

For King, Beloved Community is a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love of one's fellow human beings.

In either case, it is a name for one's highest vision of human community. It's what we hold up as a guide for our own actions.

I write this on the day of the U.S. Presidential inauguration, a week after the attack on the U.S. Capitol Building, truth, and democracy. The vision of Beloved Community – true Beloved Community – feels like miraculous, restorative water for a parched soul. Oh, the possibility of it! And, I know, it is only ever reached imperfectly, and even then only with commitment and hard work and a great deal of courageous vulnerability.

As often as I am at a loss lately to know how best to invest in healing and wholeness in the nation without missing the opportunity the heat offers to face our national demons, I am just as often clear that the root of any way forward must be compassion. All moves toward accountability, defending and strengthening democracy, safeguarding the vulnerable, adhering to shared truths...must be grounded within our compassion or they will prove destructive in the end.

So, I am thoughtful about the first "result" listed in UUCM's mission, the first of its reasons for existing in the first place – to create a world more compassionate – and what that next asks of this congregation. I'm thoughtful about the ways

compassion must begin within and must also move outward.

Our Soul Matters writers suggest that, "What we really need to hear about beloved community is not just that we can create it, but that we can count on it." This is where and how we cultivate the inner compassion we can carry outward.



This month, in our Sunday services we'll look at both creating and counting on Beloved Community: as expressed in our varied languages of love, as evidenced in our UUA pursuit of intersectional racial justice, as lived in our connection to other UU congregations nearby, and as embodied in our local commitment to love our fellow human beings by dismantling racism and other oppressions within ourselves and our institutions.

Meanwhile, I am going to take a breath of the fresh air that arrives with this day, and I'll turn my face, whenever I can, to the welcome drops of Beloved Community that fall from our current skies or that flow between and among us.

with care,

- Rev. Kevin

Board of Trustees



*Jim Perkins, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

Greetings fellow UU's!

The first thing I want to comment on is very out of date, but given the Chalice publication schedule this is my first chance to mention it. I was fascinated and very moved by the stuffed animal Christmas pageant. It was a delightful treat and made my Christmas. Congratulations to the Worship Team, Rene Wiley, and everyone else who contributed to it. You did a great job.

The other thing I want to share also has an awkward timing, as I am writing this two days before our congregational business meeting to approve revisions to the bylaws. Thus, you all have the advantage of knowing how the meeting turned out. In line with our January theme of imagination, I have been imagining everything that could go wrong with the meeting in its virtual format (what if I can't see everyone who wants to speak, what if I don't know peoples' names to call on them, what if the voting is chaotic, etc.). But I keep telling myself that the congregation will be supportive, will recognize that we are all learning how to do this in a virtual setting, and will not be upset if everything doesn't run smoothly, so that helps to relieve the nerves. Hopefully we will have (had) a quorum and the bylaws were approved.

I particularly want to acknowledge and thank the Board for all the time, energy and work they put into planning this meeting. Special kudos to Janet Dunstan who spearheaded the revising of the bylaws and the focus groups to solicit feedback (and a special thanks to all the congregation members who took the time to read the drafts of the bylaws and to participate in the focus groups). Thanks as well to all the rest of the Board who worked hard on drafting correspondence to the congregation to promote attendance, who developed ways for the voting to be successful, and who alleviated my nervousness. It was a group effort all the way, and I'm sure the meeting ended up going smoothly.

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, February 17, starting with a Closed Check-In at 3:30 PM, 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.

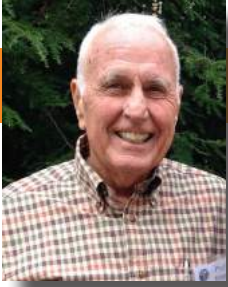
*UUCM members and friends are cordially invited to attend!
If you wish to address the board, please give two days notice so the agenda timing can be adjusted.*

This is a second appeal for members for the newly forming endowment committee. This is a good chance to support the future of UUCM and to get in on the ground floor of the development process. If you're at all interested or have any questions, please contact Phil Hart.

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.

Stay well,

—Jim



Endowment Legacy Fund

Phil Hart, Chair
Endowment Legacy

Why I Participate in Planned Giving through the UUCM Endowment Legacy Fund

There's nothing like moving into my 80's during the COVID-19 pandemic to put me touch with my mortality and a need to plan for the future. Recently, I had a difficult but liberating conversation with my family and close friends about how I wish to have my assets distributed when 'that day comes'. I shared that the planned giving program I established provides a flexible, simple way to designate some of my estate to UUCM, which has become a significant part of my life.

I have discovered various programs that allow me to manage my assets while alive, easily adjustable for potential financial insecurities of the future, and still provide a legacy gift without drama or question for the family.

Let me introduce the "UUCM Endowment Legacy Fund", our program for planned giving, established by our UU Community in 2012.

The Program helps people to plan estate gifts that financially support our community in a more significant way than is possible with donations from earned income. In return, the donors or their families may receive important estate and income tax benefits.

"We had often thought about including a legacy gift to the UUCM Endowment Fund in our estate planning but only recently got around to doing it. It wasn't that complicated for us. We believe the UUCM Endowment Fund will play an important role in supporting work towards our UUCM mission over the long run."

—Rob and Suzanne Ferroggiaro



There are many creative ways to make gifts to the Endowment Fund including:

- Simply add UUCM as a beneficiary to IRAs and other retirement funds.
- Alter the donor's will or trust to include the Endowment Legacy Fund

It is wise to consult with a qualified attorney or estate planning advisor to assist with your planned giving. At a point when we can gather again, we may provide an opportunity for you to learn more about planning your estate and to ask a professional your specific questions.

Over time, the UUCM Endowment Fund will serve as a crucial source of funding for programs and facilities that will sustain our UU community in the future. Endowment Fund assets are held separately and will not be used for general operations. Once the Endowment Fund reaches \$50,000, earnings from the fund will become available to pay for UUCM programs and to develop building facilities.

"The future depends on what we do in the present."
—Mahatma Gandhi

If you would like more information, please contact me Philhart115@gmail.com or (530) 263-9679.

-PHIL

February Visioning

The Next Step in Creating our Beloved Community Together

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa

December's Open Questions sessions offered beautiful chances to connect with others and to reflect meaningfully together on "What we've lost, What we assumed, and What's wanting to emerge." Thank you so much to everyone who participated!

The Open Question sessions were part of UUCM's annual rhythm of reflection that helps the leadership of the congregation to do its larger, visioning work while drawing on the insight and wisdom of all the members.

The next piece of this annual journey is Visioning. **Please plan to take part on Saturday, February 6.**

Looking into the future in a liminal time such as this, when so much is yet unknown, is both especially challenging and especially open and important. We have a rare window right now in which to peer into what's wanting to emerge, to envision UUCM's path with greater freedom and creativity, opened up by all that we are realizing in the midst of a pandemic and in the waves still rolling outward from January 6.

Knowing what you know now, what is the UUCM that you want to be part of?

Watch for details in the eChalice and via email, and please join in this journey of both imagination and beloved community.



Stewardship



Maryann Currington,
Chair, Stewardship Team

As committed members of UUCM we are challenged to sustain our church. With an awareness that our annual pledge campaign is in the next month, Stewardship will, once again, be calling on certain members to be Visiting Stewards. Visiting Stewards will call on members to have an open and meaningful conversation about UUCM. The goal is for all members to appreciate our church and to envision the future for this faith community. The giving of time, talent and treasure are opportunities to deepen our relationship to our beloved church.

"It is a rare and high privilege to be in a position to help people understand the difference that they can make not only in their own lives but in the lives of others by simply giving of themselves."

- Helen Boosalis

Please continue your generous giving. If you are giving toward your 2020-21 Pledge by check, be sure to write 100% to 2020-2021 Pledge.

Respectfully,

- 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 monthly "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 (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 our Pass-the-Plate partner.



Caring Team

Gwen Eymann
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team



B & G Team

Wally Holtan
Chair, Building & Grounds Team

Eleven Months In...

Here we are in February, eleven months after the start of Covid in Grass Valley. How can it be that we have already spent almost a year in this new reality? It has not been easy, but it is our life, and I feel grateful to be able to share it with this beloved UUCM community.

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.

The CaringTeam and Animal Ministry are forming a pet support group for those who have had pets who have died or have pets with serious health issues. The group will meet monthly, the day and time to be set soon. Call Carol Hyndman @ 477-0693 OR email Robin Hart. (rhstarbird@gmail.com)

-Gwen

Please feel free to contact us by email:
Caring@uugrassvalley.org or gweneymann@gmail.com

Parish Care Team Members:

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

Volunteers Needed!

Hi, Everyone. I hope you all had a nice holiday season. There is not much happening with building and grounds right now. We still have a few window sills to paint, but they need to be done from the inside (which makes it more challenging) since the slope on Walsh street does not lend itself to using a ladder outside. Any volunteers?

Our major projects coming up are to do a general cleaning of the outside area with tree and shrub trimming, and to remove the old butterfly garden which has become overrun with weeds. I would also like to cover parts of the back area with bark. My thought is to hire a crew to do this work, as it would involve many hours of small groups of workers and some talents that we do not have.

The next project is to have the rest of the flat roof replaced, which would finish the entire roof replacement. Hopefully, we will get this done this spring.

I will be reaching out to find someone to paint the second bathroom; a couple of people would be ideal. There is also some outside cleanup work depending on when we get the major yard work done. I am looking forward to starting real get-together work days, and with the vaccine it may soon be a reality, but not just yet.

Hope you all are doing well in this new year and I wish everyone a good month.

If you would like to help on any of the listed projects, please send me an email to: uucmgv@gmail.com

-Wally



Justice News and Activities

Join us for Justice Movie Night and Follow Up Meeting!

MOVIE NIGHT: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 6:00 PM

This month, on Wednesday February 27 at 6 pm we will show the film "Bending the Arc," about Partners in Health. If you have Netflix you may watch it anytime with your family. It is a very inspiring film.

In 1983 three youth, barely out of their teens, came together in a squatter settlement in Haiti determined to provide the same quality of healthcare as you could get in the best hospitals anywhere. The community health model they developed, now in places on four continents, has saved millions of lives. The evidence they provided for the ability to provide health equity for the very poor changed the minds of those in the highest halls of power.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 6:00 PM

A speaker from Partners in Health, the organization the youth created, will answer questions and give us more information about this amazing organization. If you have read *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder about Dr. Paul Farmer, this is the organization. One of our important Unitarian Universalist sources of truth and inspiration is "the words and deeds of prophetic people." In Paul Farmer we find a powerfully inspiring example.

For more information, 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 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

Interfaith Food Ministry wishes everyone a happy and healthy 2021. They are very grateful for your help, the donations, volunteers and partners, especially in this terribly difficult year. They are happy to have served 3408 families a Holiday meal over Thanksgiving and Christmas!

They still need volunteers. If you are interested, you can fill out an online application at interfaithfoodministry.org and someone will get back to you within a couple of days. Positions include: drivers, distributors, client area interviews, client area receptionist, packers, maintenance handyman, and experienced event planners.

Also, Twin Cities Church drive-through food drives for the coming year are scheduled on February 26, March 26 and April 16 if you want to contribute.

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).



Art & Aesthetics

*Robin Hart, Chair,
Art & Aesthetics Team*

The Art & Aesthetics team is continuing our community project so we can support the congregation together while we are apart. We are well along constructing the community sculpture in the garden behind the church. We are still asking the congregation to come by the backyard of the church if you haven't yet done so, and safely add branches, plastic pipe, wire, fabric or whatever interesting material you can think of. This towering piece of art will symbolize the interconnectedness and unity of our congregation. Please sign your piece with some permanent marker so we can identify your contribution.

For the new year we thought we would keep the sculpture in the garden and do seasonal things with it such as congregants leave hearts for Valentine's Day with the subject "What do you Love". We will still be photographing the progress and posting the photos in the e-chalice.

JOIN IN ON OUR VALENTINES DAY PROJECT -

Congregants are invited to write some messages of love and appreciation for (at least) three other people in the congregation. You can write your note in a Valentines Day card (store bought or homemade) or on your favorite stationery and either send them by mail, or drop them off at people's homes. If you are delivering them personally, you might also include a small bag of goodies to go along with your message.

Please note: If you are planning to drop off your notes/gifts in person, please call ahead to make sure the recipient is open to having you come, and can be wearing a mask or taking whatever safety precautions they need to in order to feel comfortable.

Stay well and keep a rainbow in your hearts!

- Robin



Pass the Plate

Each month, UUCM members and friends support UUCM justice partners through the Sunday Pass-the-Plate offering. Thanks to UUCM's generous members and friends in December, [Hospitality House](#) will receive \$1035! A great way for UUCM to carry on the legacy of our own Utah Phillips and his efforts to serve the houseless in our area. Thank you, everyone!

We are currently completing January collections for [Sierra Roots](#).



In February, our partner is [KARE Crisis Nursery](#), which provides safe, nurturing care for the small children of families experiencing a stressful situation. It is the vision of the KARE Crisis Nursery that all children in our community will be able to grow and thrive free from the threat or possibility of child abuse and/or neglect. Kare Crisis Nursery's mission is to provide shelter and respite for the children and assistance to their families who are facing a crisis, and to safely and effectively supervise Court Ordered visitations for families seeking reunification.

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

A Little Funny Business

How many Unitarians does it take to change a lightbulb?

We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved -- you can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb, and present it next month at our annual light bulb Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence. Bring bulb of your choice and a covered dish.

(from the UU Hysterical Society, submitted by Janet Dunstan)

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

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, February 3, 11:00 AM

Here is the Zoom meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92259246223?pwd=ZG10YlpXSkrRHcDkxaGRSMWV1enVsdz09>



The next meeting of the UUCM Humanist Discussion Group will be on Wednesday, February 3rd at 11:00 AM and our topic will be "Education of Our Youth." It's been suggested that we look at and beyond the usual educational structures we employ to investigate what extra-curricular education takes place in our world today. The internet has greatly expanded the educational opportunities available to our youth.

There will not be any readings sent out for this meeting – I'll leave it up to you to present your thoughts and results of any research you might do. I look forward to sharing your views on this topic when we meet on February 3rd.

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



WALKING GROUP

Cancelled for February as we are not endorsing any in-person social activities for now. 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. Come make connections with other UUCM women, and have a few laughs, share stories, and concerns with us. 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 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

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

February at UUCM's Family Ministry

By Rene Wiley

This month we're exploring the many ways our UU faith invites us to become "A People of Beloved Community." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the people [that helped all of us understand](#) this important idea and dream. King imagined the Beloved Community as a society based on justice, equity, peace and love of the entire world community.

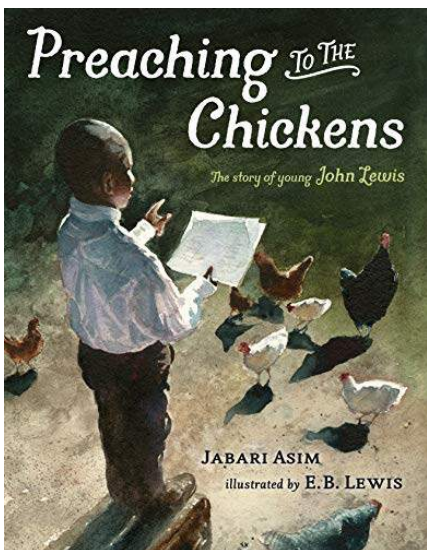
UU KIDS OF ALL AGES JOIN 59KIDS CONNECTION

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION GROUP LED BY LINDSAY & WALT

WEDNESDAY EVES AT 5:15 TO ~6:00 PM.

This month kids enter and explore Beloved Community: where Black leaders are honored as we practice anti-racism and live the [8th UU Principle](#), where love grows beyond boundaries, where wounds are healed, and where we don't run away when things get hard.

Join online! All ages welcome. For information, contact familyministry@uugrassvalley.org.



STORYTIME!

Enjoy this animated video story about a young John Lewis: *Preaching to the Chickens* about a young boy and his emerging sense of justice and call to action.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=fTFpsQyRfG>

YOUNG ADULTS - AGES 18-35

Find meaning where you find your people

Check in with opportunities for ministry, work, and ways to gather. Check out these links:

<https://www.uuyarn.org/ministries>

<https://www.facebook.com/uuyarn>



POLITICAL EDUCATION GROUP FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE WITH UU YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 14-35)

Over a series of six weeks, Young Adults will gather to read and discuss the *Red Deal*, a platform for Indigenous-led collective liberation and Just Transition from the Red Nation. These sessions will center the platform in the context of the Green New Deal and other platforms to win a Just Transition, and offer space for community building and advocacy. All readings will be available online for free; no prior experience necessary!

Dates to be announced. For more information and to register, click the link below:

<https://www.uumfe.org/get-involved/uuyacj/uuyacj-book-club/>



Your Chalice Home for February – Beloved Community

By Rene Wiley and UUA Soul Matters Team Members

Welcome to Chalice Home for February and the theme of Beloved Community. Each month, we offer two family worship experiences that explore our monthly theme and help us expand our Chalice Homes with additional symbolic objects/tokens.

Continued on page 11

UUCM Family Ministry

Continued from page 10...

In our first home worship this month, we open our hearts to diversity in order to see humanity in all. Our theme "Beloved Community" coincides with Valentine's Day, an opportunity to explore what opening our hearts to difference may mean, while we also share the love we feel with our close family and friends. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized the notion of the "Beloved Community," a term coined by philosopher Josiah Royce. King envisioned the Beloved Community as a society based on justice, equity, and love of others, including one's "enemies." To honor the Beloved Community, we invite families to place a heart on their Chalice Home this month.

In our second home worship, we honor the way we create Beloved Community to fight racism. Your worship's new symbolic token/object(s) will be an item from your household that centers anti-racism. It might be a Black Lives Matter bracelet, a picture book with diverse characters, a box of multicolored or multicultural crayons, or a protest sign. What item represents the importance of fighting racism for you? We invite family members to share a personal story of how racism or anti-racism has appeared in their life.

In the end, maybe the most important reminder this month is that Beloved Community is not just about finding home, but also about extending home to others. Maybe the lesson is that none of us are really home until all of us are home. So friends, may you be blessed by this awareness that we are all in this together. And as we work together, maybe a small taste of the Beloved Community is available to us even now!

To get a full document of the February Chalice Home Family Worship Guide, please click on this link: [Chalice Home February 2021](#). If you have any difficulties getting on the Google Drive, you can have the document emailed to you by sending a note to Rene Wiley at familyministry@uugrassvalley.org



Book Groups



SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

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 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 e-book.

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 with questions or to be included in the mailing list.



What Does It Mean to be a People of Beloved Community?

*From the
Soul Matters Authors*

Henri Nouwen, the treasured catholic teacher, activist and pastor, once described beloved community as *"the place where the person you least want to live with always lives."*

On its surface it seems to be a straightforward reminder not to expect perfection from the communities we join. And not to expect perfection from others. Indeed, it's a plea to stick with those troublesome others. Forgive them. Accept them. Stay open to the whole of who they are, not just the caricatured sliver of them that makes it easy to write them off.

Besides the obvious calls to commitment, conflict resolution and hard work, there's also a hidden call to hope woven into Nouwen's words. To stay in community with difficult or offensive people, we have to hold on to the hope that they can change and grow. We have to believe that their better selves exist and will eventually show up. We have to have faith that giving them the benefit of the doubt is worth it. That assuming their good intentions isn't foolish.

It's a tall order. This kind of hopefulness and generosity toward others is not easy.

But here's the catch, Nouwen doesn't stop there. Right after that first sentence he adds another. Here's the whole quote:

"Community is the place where the person you least want to live with always lives... That person is always in your community somewhere; in the eyes of others, you might be that person."

Ouch! Nouwen doesn't pull his punches. Just when we were starting to feel good about being the ones who are magnanimous with these annoying and offensive folks, Nouwen reminds us that we are actually among them! But don't get so caught up in this message of humility that you miss how Nouwen is also using this to call us to an even greater hopefulness.

By adding us to the mix of the unwanted, he's pointing out

that beloved community requires us to believe not only that others are worth our effort but also that we will be worth the effort in the eyes of others!

It's an insight that we must not miss this month. We human beings run away from community not just because others let us down, but also because we doubt that others will step up when we let them down. Beloved community stays at arm's length not just because it is hard to build, but also because we don't trust that it will be there for us.

It's all one big reminder that the work of beloved community is bigger than we usually imagine. It's not just about building a better world; it's also about building up each other's faith. We are in a battle not just against the division between us, but also the doubt within us.

What we really need to hear about beloved community is not just that we can create it, but that we can count on it.

This month, may we make sure we all bless each other with both of those messages.

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 or minister@uugrassvalley.org or to any of the worship associates:

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

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

February 2021 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
FEBRUARY 2021			
<i>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.</i>			
3	Wednesday	8:30 AM 11:00 AM 1:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Starting Point Series Worship Team Meeting Kids Connection Hour Choir
4	Thursday	8:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group via Zoom Singing Meditation
5	Friday	10:00 AM 4:00 PM	Executive Council Meetings Friday Afternoon Check In
6	Saturday	2:00 PM 4:00 PM	Congregational Visioning Workshop Nonviolent Communication Workshop
7	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM	Full Community Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Book Group
8	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
9	Tuesday	4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Reading Group
10	Wednesday	8:30 AM 1:00 PM 1:30 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Starting Point Series Finance Committee Meeting Kids Connection Hour Choir
11	Thursday	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Men's Group via Zoom Writers' Group
12	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
13	Saturday	4:00 PM	Nonviolent Communication Workshop
14	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
17	Wednesday	8:30 AM 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Starting Point Series Wednesday Book Group Board of Trustees Meeting Kids Connection Hour Choir
18	Thursday	8:00 AM 5:00 PM	Men's Group via Zoom Social Justice Meeting
19	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
20	Saturday	4:00 PM	Nonviolent Communication Workshop
21	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
23	Tuesday	4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Task Force
24	Wednesday	8:30 AM 1:00 PM 5:15 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Starting Point Series Kids Connection Hour Social Justice Movie Night: <i>Bending the Arc</i> Choir
25	Thursday	8:00 AM 10:30 AM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Men's Group via Zoom Writers' Group Worship Team Meeting Social Justice Night: Partners in Health
26	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
27	Saturday	4:00 PM	Nonviolent Communication Workshop
28	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

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

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

minister@uugrassvalley.org

admin@uugrassvalley.org

music@uugrassvalley.org

TELEPHONE

530.274.1661

530.274.1675

530.274.1675

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

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

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