

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

March 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)

### MARCH THEME:

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

**March 7** *Exploring the Nature of Commitment*  
Wendy Wernigg, Worship Associate

*Commitments come in many forms. We commit to a partner when we marry, we commit to raising our children to adulthood when we have them. We may commit to a pet or a cause or a practice. Sometimes a commitment is active, one we choose again and again. Others might be more passive, like a comfortable old sweater one forgets to take off. We will begin to uncover what it means to be a "People of Commitment" as Wendy Wernigg leads us in an exploration of the nature of commitment.*

**March 14** *Committing to the Wellbeing of Women: Dismantling Patriarchy – A Tapestry Service*  
Wendy Wernigg, Worship Associate

*March is Women's History Month. This Sunday we will explore our commitments to gender equality. Patriarchy, just like systemic racism, is the water we swim in. It is the norm that is harmful to all, women and men alike. When we commit to justice and equity, let us not forget that dismantling the patriarchy is vital to the wellbeing of our society. Join us in this tapestry service to hear from members about their experiences dismantling patriarchy.*

**March 21** *Life Calls Us On: Stewarding Shifting Tides*  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

*The Spring Equinox this weekend embodies both balance and change. As we pass the one year mark of the pandemic, and navigate shifting human landscapes and fluctuating social and ecological tides, how can we think about and live out commitment through our faith tradition and through this gathered community and its mission? To what do we commit when everything, it seems, is in motion?*

**March 28** *So the Dough Isn't Ready*  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

*The important annual Jewish celebration of Passover, or Pesach, commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Palm Sunday in the Christian tradition commemorates the triumphant arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem shortly before he is captured, tried, and executed – his death understood by Christians as another form of liberation. We conclude our month-long meditation on commitment at this interfaith intersection, looking for wisdom to help us examine our own commitments and liberation.*

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

To what, or perhaps to whom, are you committed?

To what or to whom are you devoted, dedicated, pledged?

Rather than coming at it from the New Year's resolution style "it's good for you" angle, with its shoulds and oughts, it may be more helpful to first approach the idea of commitment by noticing what your living already tells you about your commitments. "Let your life speak," in the Quaker words.

When you look back at what you've held to, attended to, prioritized above other competing demands for your energy, heart, and attention, what do you notice? If someone were to look at your life from the outside, to what would they expect that you are committed, based on the visible evidence?

Sometimes there is a discrepancy between what we believe is true about us, and what our behavior shows is true for us. For all its often inward focus, the spiritual journey is always about the alignment of the inner and the outer. It's true for individuals as well as for communities and institutions.



So, if you look at what UUCM has held to, attended to, prioritized above other competing demands for its members' energy, heart and attention, what do you notice? If someone were to look at UUCM from the outside, to what would they expect that UUCM is committed, based on the visible evidence? Is UUCM in spiritual alignment with its sense of itself, its mission, its principles?

This is not to suggest that UUCM is not in alignment, but to suggest that we ask ourselves these kinds of questions this month as we ask what it means to be a people of commitment. As we are imagining UUCM's life and focus beyond the pandemic, let's notice where we are, so the congregation can move forward with honesty, depth, and the kind of commitment that will help members realize its mission. In our recent visioning sessions people surfaced the headlines, the overheard conversations and the future awards they envision hopefully in UUCM's future. It's a marvelous list

(watch for it)! Someone in one of the sessions pointed out that as inspiring as the imagined headlines, conversations and awards were, they were also achievable. It's a great observation. Visioning exercises typically tend to lead to

pie-in-the-sky possibilities, but these were both inspiring and within reach.

I think this speaks to both our learning from the pandemic experience and to the maturity and depth that is growing in UUCM.

We are moving together into a future of abundant external unknowns, carrying increasingly now, the hard-won awareness and wisdom born of deeper internal knowing. We've learned more about who we are, as individuals and as a community. And I

expect that the experience of gradually returning to physically interconnected lives will shed an even greater light both within and without. We are going to discover so much about ourselves.

As we move forward, let's get as clear as we can about our commitments, that we might indeed foster greater compassion, sustainability and justice, that we might indeed cultivate our strength, that we might indeed be a people of courageous love, inside and out.

*with care,*

*- Rev. Kevin*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Rev. Kevin will be on vacation March 1-15. Our UUCM Board, Administrator, and Caring Team will be fielding your important queries and calls during that time.



*Jim Perkins, President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees*

## Board of Trustees

Greetings fellow UU's!

The Board had an unusual meeting this week -- we finished on time and covered the entire agenda instead of leaving half of it for next month. Everyone celebrated.

Our major project now is developing the budget for next year. This is a more challenging task than usual because of the pandemic. Our budget is quite different when we have a virtual church rather than a live one, so we have to guesstimate when we will be open for business again. So far we are looking at the end of the year, though that has not been decided as of yet. We have also been looking at adding some staff and we have to make a preliminary decision about that. Then we need to hear from all the committees and teams what they project their financial needs to be. Meantime, we will be estimating what we think the revenue will be from pledges, plate collections, fund raisers, etc. Then all of that will be fed into the gristmill of the finance committee and a draft budget will be churned out. That will be reviewed by the Board, then voted on by the congregation at the annual congregational business meeting. But there will be several opportunities to give input before that. Watch this space for more news.

The Pandemic Health and Safety Committee is continuing to meet monthly to monitor CDC, UUA, and other guidelines and recommendations to make monthly reports to the Board. We thank the committee for their persistence and valuable work! The team continues to recommend the suspension of all UUCM-sanctioned in-person gatherings until further notice. The Board did carefully look at the Nevada County Left Coalition mutual aid effort offered in front of the church on Saturday mornings and decided that it was appropriate to sanction them to continue to serve those most in need, with the stipulation that they follow the recommended guidelines regarding masks, social distancing and so forth.

The Board is also starting to work on the facilities planning process. We have developed a charge for the committee and selected the first two members based on their participation in the ad hoc group last spring. They will be reviewing the charter and making recommendations to the Board for additional members.

### 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, March 17, starting with a Closed Check-In at 3:00 PM, then opening to the public at 3:30 PM.*

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

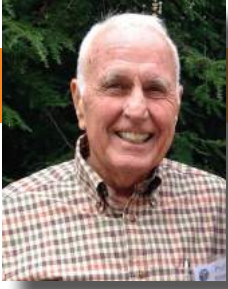
*UUCM members and friends are cordially invited to attend!  
If you wish to address the board, please give two days notice so the agenda timing can be adjusted.*

It's good to see that more and more members are getting their vaccination injections (mine is coming up early next month). Hopefully we will eventually acquire herd immunity for the congregation – although that will open a Pandora's box of policy decisions that the Board will face when it happens. In the meantime, here is hope for everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Board meetings are open to members and friends starting at 3:30 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*



# Endowment Legacy Fund

*Phil Hart, Chair  
Endowment Legacy*

Each **Simple Gift** received moves UUCM closer to the \$50,000 funding level where we can put Endowment Fund resources to work to help ensure the long-term health and vitality of our UU Community.

## The Simple Gift

Do you remember this song from the Shaker tradition?

*"Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free,  
'Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be."*

2020 was a year of spectacular change, stress and loss. But perhaps, in these last few days, "...we find ourselves in the place just right..." to step into a quiet moment to discover what simple gifts we may find to be thankful for. And in response, there might be a gift we wish to give in return.

The UUCM community established the **Simple Gifts** program for moments like this.

In addition to your annual pledge toward our ongoing regular expenses (Thank you!) consider making a **Simple Gift** to mark a blessing in your life, such as:

- To commemorate a life-event - a birthday, anniversary, engagement, wedding, or graduation.

*"Annually, I make a gift of one dollar for every year of my long life. I started this years ago hoping the congregation would join me."*

— Anita Wald-Tuttle

- In honor of or to thank someone's kindness, thoughtful gesture or lesson-learned.
- In the memory of a loved one who fills your thoughts at this time.
- To rejoice in the gift of life, the joy of community or the love in your heart.

To make a **Simple Gift** before the end of the year (or anytime) you may drop off or mail a check to:

UUCM, 246 South Church Street,  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Online giving by credit card is available at

<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/>

(Find "Online Giving" box and use the "Endowment Fund" field)

*The UUCM Endowment Fund offers a promise that the work and the mission of UUCM can continue in our community. That is why I felt compelled to donate money to this fund. I was fortunate enough to have a small investment that was made for me as a child, and over 50 years it grew. When we were doing estate planning it was clear that this money was something I had never considered as part of my retirement, and I felt like it could be put to use doing something to better the world around me. I made the choice to put it to work building the UUCM Endowment Fund. I was able to do a stock transfer and donate the funds tax free. It was a win-win for us both.*

*UUCM has given me so much over the years. It has helped me through difficult times and it has provided inspiration, not to mention many dear friends and companions with whom I share this life journey.*

— Gwen Eymann

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

*-PHIL*





## Stewardship

Maryann Currington,  
Chair, Stewardship Team

Welcome to March – the month in which we look forward to spring, to life reemerging for all of us, and the time of our UUCM Pledge Drive. Our theme this year is “Life Calls Us On”. As we begin to look forward, instead of existing in the limbo of the past year, we start to reflect on what our UUCM Community can and does mean in our lives as well as our hopes and expectations for the future. We want to grow our efforts and our impact in this community, and to support our values here and elsewhere. For this, we need to dig deep, and find the generosity that we need to fund our ideas and ideals.

Last year, we held a wonderful “Roaring 2020” dinner party, complete with music, good food and drink and lots of fun to begin our 2020-2021 Pledge Campaign. This year, of course, we cannot gather in person but the Stewardship Team is hoping to bring us together with a gift of music. You soon will receive a CD – a beautiful collection of songs we love performed by our own members and friends. We hope it will be a connection to all we cherish about our UU community.

We have started the process of focusing on what brings us here and keeps us sharing our talents and treasure with a series of testimonials from members of UUCM, which will be given at the beginning of our Sunday services. We hope these statements resonate with you, and help you consider what UUCM means to you.

During the last weeks of March, our dedicated and hard-working team of Visiting Stewards will contact members to engage in one-on-one phone conversations. We hope these conversations build and enhance relationships within the community. The conversations will be focused on the mission of our community and your role in supporting it with your efforts and generosity. You will receive a pledge form at that time, either by mail or e-mail.

We hope to complete the process by early April, and need to have pledge forms returned promptly so that our Finance Team can put together a budget for the next fiscal year to be submitted to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting in late May. We would like to have a budget that allows us to continue the expansion of our efforts to serve the growing UUCM community and to continue to reach out in the wider community as we live our values and mission.

Please, be generous as you are able!

*With our love and respect,*

*Gail Shulz & Maryann Currington*

## Health & Safety

### Our Healthy Behavior

By Kern Hildebrand

Member, UUCM Pandemic Health and Safety Team

Congratulations and thank you for all you are doing to help keep your loved ones, your friends, those who provide you with services, and yourself healthy. For some of us the wait will still be for some time yet, but as Covid-19 vaccines slowly become available we can all start to feel better about our prospects for more and closer personal and congregational human connections in the future.

In the meantime, however, our individual behaviors are still very important. Yes, we want to feel safe, and as much as possible, we want to be safe. Receiving both Covid-19 vaccinations will provide very strong, but not full protection for ourselves and for those around us. Please keep in mind that our goal is still to not share breathable air with other people outside of our immediate household.

Good healthwise personal behavior will continue to help you to be safer. You will be safer the more you keep your distance from others, wear a good well-fitted mask, keep your hands clean, not gather in confined spaces, and not be in contact with others for prolonged times. Other positive behaviors include focusing on what you can control, being as healthy as you can with sleep, eating, exercise, and nutrition, doing whatever you have previously found helpful for holding off stress, for example a walk in the woods, meditating, reading a book, and cooking. And please stick to your regular medications.

For the love of others and yourself, whether vaccinated or not, please continue good personal health and wellbeing behaviors. Well done.



*Who's that cheerful UUCM member behind the mask?!*



## Caring Team

Gwen Eymann  
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team



## B & G Team

Wally Holtan  
Chair, Building & Grounds Team

It has been one year since we shut the doors of UUCM and have had to be in this state of limited contact with each other. I suspect we have all gained technical skills we never imagined needing or using on a regular basis. Who says you can't teach old dogs new tricks? It seems moving into March there is a light at the end of the tunnel; vaccines are rolling out, the number of new cases and hospitalizations are going down, and there is a promise of life returning to some degree of a new normal. Still, we mourn the loss of so many lives lost, and we feel gratitude that so far, no one in our Grass Valley UU community has succumbed to this virus. We have held strong as a faith community and I am so proud of the ways we have held together creatively, and with love and commitment to UUCM and to one another. Thank you all.

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 let us know how 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 Caring Team 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 on the last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. The first meeting will be on March 26. Call Carol Hyndman at 477-0693 OR email Robin Hart ([rhstarbird@gmail.com](mailto:rhstarbird@gmail.com)) for more information.

### PET SUPPORT GROUP ZOOM LINK:

<https://zoom.us/j/96665962308?pwd=SG1tWDBndDVUUHRaNDk1Rmo3WWptZz09>

Meeting ID: 966 6596 2308

Passcode: 585912

Join by phone

1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 966 6596 2308

Passcode: 585912

*-Gwen*

### Parish Care Team Members:

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

Please feel free to contact us by email:

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

## Volunteers Needed!

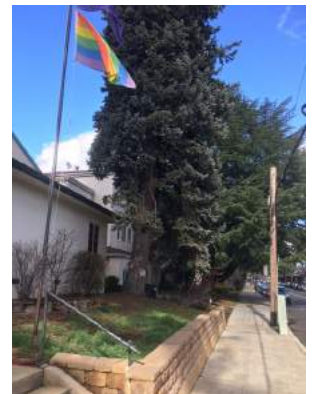
Hi, Everyone. March marks a year of zooming and isolation but it also brings hope and expectation. Many of us are getting vaccinated and that number will continue to increase. I, for one, am grateful for this happening.

On the project side, the last portion of the roof will be completed in the next few months, bringing the expectation of a dry interior during the heavy rains. Now some inside drywall repair will need to be done; volunteers would be much appreciated. Our landscape has been cleaned up! It was a major project and we hired a crew that did an outstanding job. They were even able to trim and clean out the dead wood on the spruce tree in front of the building that was hanging over our newly replaced roof.

We still need some volunteers to paint a bathroom. Two painters would be great; a couple from the same household would be perfect. The other thing we need to do is clean up the garages. I hope to address that project in the near future. I am still looking forward to being able to start real get-together work days and with the vaccine, it may become a reality, but not yet.

That is all for now from building and grounds for this month. Hope you all are doing well in this new year and I wish everyone a good month.

*-Wally*



*Looking sharp at UUCM!  
Our professional crew did  
an excellent job  
on our landscape  
clean up project!*

# Justice News and Activities

## Justice News

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 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. 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**

Interfaith Food Ministry still needs volunteers. If you are interested, you can fill out an online application at [interfaithfoodministry.org](http://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.

### **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).

## Have You Gotten 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!

We have the signs. And we deliver to your door! We just need YOU to place a sign in your yard.

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



*George and Janet Dunstan show off their CCL yard sign!*



## 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.

We have decided we would keep the sculpture in the garden and do seasonal things with it, as we did with hearts for Valentine's Day with the subject "What do you Love". If you feel so inspired, you can hang some lucky charms on the sculpture for St. Patty's Day. We will still be photographing the progress and posting the photos in the e-chalice.

We want to thank the congregation for helping create a more "Beloved Community" during the month of February. Members and friends have been contacting us about their good deeds in sending congregants messages of love and friendship in notes and cards.

*Stay well and keep a rainbow in your hearts!*

*- Robin*



*Details of some "heartfelt" additions to our Community Sculpture that were added in February*

## 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 January, [Sierra Roots](#) will receive \$1913! What inspiring generosity, caring for those without houses in these winter months. Thank you, everyone! This is tremendous.

We are currently completing February collections for [KARE Crisis Nursery](#).



In March, our partner is [Animal Place](#) animal sanctuary, whose mission is to extend compassion to all life, with a special emphasis on farmed animals, providing permanent sanctuary, education, legislation and appropriate placement of needy animals.

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

## Online Giving & More

*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](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 our Pass-the-Plate partner.



# 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, March 3, 11:00 AM

Here is the Zoom meeting link:

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



For our next meeting on Wednesday, March 3rd, at 11:00 AM, our topic will be "cancel culture." Here are links to two articles and out of an effort to look at this from both sides of the political spectrum, one is from the Washington Post and the other from The National Review. This could lead to an interesting discussion.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/02/16/cancel-culture-blends-into-victim-culture/>

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/02/its-a-blacklist-pure-and-simple/>

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 now as we do not endorse any in-person social activities at this time. Please contact Theresa Houtman at [Walking@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Walking@uugrassvalley.org) to get on the list for future walks.

## 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. 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](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)

## March at UUCM's Family Ministry

By Rene Wiley

Happy March! A couple of weeks ago, I attended a Regional Assembly workshop for Religious Education leaders and found that all of our UU congregations in the Pacific Northwest Region are Loving Right Through the challenges we all face. It served as a wonderful reset as we named the lamentations of how we used to be able to engage, took time to reimagine the future and celebrate the good that is happening still.

Among the good things that we lifted up is UUCM's *To This I Give My Heart* program! It stands out with the wonderful commitment shown by our member-mentors who are embarking on a journal adventure with our 14-15 year olds.

Also, Lindsay's and Walt's personal dedication to the kids' Wednesday night RE is an absolute gift. It's such wild fun that the kids there are cancelling other plans to make sure they can attend with their UUCM friends. All ages can join!

As Spring approaches, it will be time to check in with parents and see how Family Ministry can support their family's faith formation.

### UUCM KIDS CONNECTION - RE PROGRAM

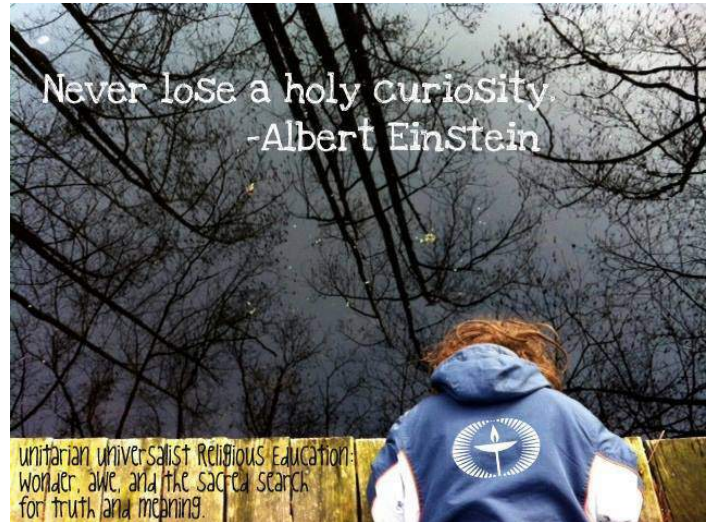
**ALL AGES WELCOME!**

**RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION GROUP LED BY LINDSAY & WALT**  
**WEDNESDAY EVES AT 5:15 TO 6:15 PM. (Sometimes 6:30)**

This month in Religious Exploration we are exploring the ways our UU faith invites us to become "A People of Commitment."

Here are the four "UU commitments" we are focusing on this month. Or as we are calling them, "The Four C's":

- **Curiosity** (The Commitment to Asking Questions)
- **Change** (The Importance of Keeping an Open Mind)
- **Conscience** (The Commitment to Individual Conscience & The Value of Each Person - the 5th UU principle and supporting anti-racism and the adoption of the 8th UU principle)
- **Compassion** (The Commitment to Seeing the Needs of Others as Your Own - the 2nd & 8th UU principle)



### UUA'S COMMON READ

Parents, consider reading the UUA's [Common Read](#), "Breathe: A Letter to My Sons" by Imani Perry. "She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition." - from the *UUA Common Read* description.

### EMERGING ADULTS - AGES 18-24

Join the [YARN newsletter](#) for all the stuff happening everywhere. Job Opportunities! Worship! Sharing Groups! All online, all of the time.



### HOME CHALICE

Enrich your chalice home this month with two examples of elements that celebrate commitment to UU values. Keep going with your own ideas for elements of Commitment for your home altar spaces!

Share your pictures by emailing them to:

[familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org)

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## UUCM Family Ministry

To get a full document of the March Chalice Home Family Worship Guide, please click on this link: [Chalice Home March 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](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org)



Citizens' Climate Lobby

### CLIMATE SOLUTION

Families can put up yard signs and encourage others to get involved in a climate solution!

<https://youth.citizensclimatelobby.org/>



## Book Groups



### SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

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 rending as this story of a runty goat subject to all of the suffering and solace that visits modern India. Author Murugan turned to allegory after being persecuted for writing more directly about India's ills.

### JOIN ZOOM MEETING FOR SUNDAY BOOK GROUP:

<https://zoom.us/j/92711118322?pwd=c2w5M0VoMEdvKzVLQkIFUzJ3S2Zndz09>

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

Join by phone: 1 669 900 9128 (Same ID/passcode as above)

### THIRD WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP -

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.

### JOIN ZOOM MEETING FOR WEDNESDAY GROUP:

<https://zoom.us/j/97396085392?pwd=eTY1bUhQRGxlC0szcnN4TXc5dDRqdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 9608 5392

Passcode: 826724

Join by phone: 1 669 900 9128 (Same ID/passcode as above)

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 Commitment?

*From the Soul Matters Authors*

There's a natural, and important, go-getter quality to this month. After all, huge payoffs come when we keep our commitments. Maintaining loyalty to healthy habits not only lengthens our lives but enriches them. Faithfully following through on our relationship commitments allows us to fully realize ourselves as the interdependent creatures we are, as well as increases just about every metric of happiness, meaning and success out there. And keeping the promises we make to ourselves ultimately gives us the strength, groundedness and self-confidence needed to follow through on all those promises we make to those around us.

Add it all up and what we get is a picture of commitment that looks a lot like climbing a mountain. The path is long and littered with challenges, but there's definitely a beautiful view waiting for us at the top. Staying on course is the goal. What's needed most in our backpacks are the qualities of endurance, focus, determination and grit. And of course no commitment climb would be complete without a handful of coaches offering us motivational words and strategic tips, along with a supportive crowd that lines the path and cheers us on with encouraging shouts of "You can do it!"

There is no doubt that such climbs are worth it. All of us certainly need a few of these successful journeys to feel fulfilled. But what about those we notice along the way? What about those we see sitting on the side of the trail, bruised and tending to their wounds? What about those we see walking the other way? Those who have stopped half-way up and are now traveling back down the path?

There's the friend whose marriage was good for so many years but, through no real fault of her or her spouse, that relationship has now just grown thin. She is the one sitting there struggling to accept the sad reality that some marriages just weren't meant to last a lifetime. There's also the co-worker that is proud to have maintained a successful career for 20 years that supported his family, but who - because of that commitment to stable work - had to turn his back on an earlier dream of being a writer. And over by that turn in the road sits your sister who gave her faithfulness but only got betrayal and infidelity in return. Then, of course, there are the many fellow

travelers who bravely remain committed to the long-haul goals of health and security, but who walk wearily because addictions or bad luck have turned their journey into a one of one step forward and two steps back.

All of which is to say that maybe what's needed most this month is for us to tone down all the motivational talk so we can make at least a little room for mourning.

Yes, the path of commitment is a lot like climbing a mountain, but it is just as often more like trudging through a thick forest where all sorts of paths complicate our journey. Not every path of commitment is clear and long, with a reward waiting at the end. Some just lead to dead ends. Others start out along beautiful streams but mid-way through snakes slither out through the grass. Some trails are simply too steep and must be abandoned, not just for our safety but for the safety of those we love. And almost always there's that fork in the road. We want to travel both, but we are forced to choose. So commitment to one necessarily means traveling with regret and "What ifs."

In such woods, our backpacks need to be filled with more than just endurance, focus and grit. Self-forgiveness, acceptance, and the ability to let go or admit "I was wrong" need to be tucked in there too.

In such woods, people need us to be more than coaches and cheerleaders. They need something more like pit stop crews. A trusted circle of people willing to offer them repair and rest.

We need to remember that for every person wanting to hear "push through the pain," there are two needing someone to say, "It's ok to tell me about your pain." Sometimes the best advice is "break it down to one step at a time"; other times the wisest words we can offer are "It's ok to stop trying."

Less pushing grit and more encouragement to forgive themselves. Less shouting "You can do it!" from the sidelines, and more whispering "I'm here to listen."

Yes, there's no doubt that's exactly what so many need this month. And maybe that's exactly what you need too...

## Upcoming Soul Matters Themes

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

March:	Commitment
April:	Becoming
May:	Story
June:	Play

# March 2021 Calendar of Events at UUCM

## DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

### MARCH 2021

*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	Tuesday	4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
3	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		11:00 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		2:30 PM	Worship Team Meeting
		5:15 PM	Kids' Connection Hour
		7:00 PM	Choir
4	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation
5	Friday	10:00 AM	Executive Council Meetings
		4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
7	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	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	Men's Group
		4:00 PM	Ministry Council Meeting
		4:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
		5:15 PM	Kids' Connection Hour
		7:00 PM	Choir
11	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
12	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
14	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
17	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		2:00 PM	Wednesday Book Group
		3:00 PM	Board of Trustees Closed Check In
		3:30 PM	Board of Trustees Public Meeting
		5:15 PM	Kids' Connection Hour
18	Thursday	7:00 PM	Choir
		8:00 AM	Men's Group
18	Thursday	5:00 PM	Social Justice Meeting
		4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
19	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
		10:30 AM	Sunday Service
21	Sunday	12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Task Force
23	Tuesday	4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Task Force
		8:30 AM	Men's Group
		3:30 PM	Worship Team Retreat
		5:15 PM	Kids' Connection Hour
24	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Choir
		8:00 AM	Men's Group
25	Thursday	10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		10:00 AM	Pet Loss Support Group
26	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
		10:30 AM	Sunday Service
28	Sunday	12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		8:30 AM	Men's Group
31	Wednesday	5:15 PM	Kids' Connection Hour



## 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*

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

[minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

[admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org)

[music@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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](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*