

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

April 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

APRIL THEME:

What Does it Mean to be a People of Becoming?

April 4 **Hope Beneath the Stone**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Gail Johnson Vaughan, WA

This Sunday is the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or just after the spring equinox - the date chosen centuries ago for the Christian celebration of Easter. Christianity is not the only religious tradition to celebrate the springtime rebirth of life. And religious or not, we all hold hope for what will spring forth from beneath the stone of winter. In this service we will reclaim this ancient celebratory time as we begin our new theme of what it means to be a "people of becoming."

April 11 **What Do You Want to Become?**
Beth Karow, Worship Associate, and YOU!

All life long we are in the process of becoming. Sometimes we experience powerful threshold moments, and sometimes we notice the transformation only later, as we look back at our lives. In this interactive service, complete with small breakout group sharing, reflect on your own unfolding journey, your own process of becoming, even now.

April 18 **Coming Together to Restore Our Earth**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Jeff Stone, WA, and UUCM's Climate Justice Task Force

Let us work together to restore the earth from the damage

we have already caused by production of atmospheric carbon, depletion of forests, and pollution of the oceans. We can do this through science and spirit, by awareness of the interconnectedness of life, and the global consequences of our actions. Let us affirm both the science of climate change and a spirit of wholeness as we celebrate and restore our connection to the earth.

April 25 **A Community of Communities**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Gail Johnson Vaughan, WA

As individuals we are all becoming, evolving, hopefully growing into who we are meant to be. Like cells in a growing organism, our individual evolution defines the way in which our church evolves. What are we becoming? What has gestated through this womblike time of pandemic? How are we being changed? How do the many ways our members volunteer our varied talents and skills fuel UUCM becoming what UUCM is meant to be? How are you called to be part of this becoming? Come join us in this service of celebration.

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

"*Becoming*" is a wonderfully apt theme for this month, one year since we were sequestered in our homes, as more and more people are vaccinated and daring to look forward, and as spring unfolds under, within, and everywhere around us. The ancient religious themes of liberation and resurrection make perfect sense every year at this time, and with a heightened relevance this year.

Our Sunday services this month will invite us to notice our own journeys of becoming, from early in our lives to the very present moment. We'll draw on the religious themes of Easter, its ancient earth-centered imagery as well as its Christian metaphors. We'll invite you to call to mind your childhood expectations for your life path and also invite you to notice your current becoming in an interactive service of sharing. We'll honor Earth Day by calling to mind and heart our own place in influencing the earth's future. And we'll end the month looking at the future of UUCM and your place within it, particularly in regard to how you bring yourself to its journey.



In my own annual rhythm, spiritual and emotional seeds that have been germinating during my very introspective winters begin nudging through whatever surface has held them. Sometimes the surface is soft and loose, an easy push for the growth that peeks through. Sometimes it takes more determination and effort for the new knowing or behavior to manifest above ground. Often, the new growth, the needed becoming, is more like a sprout that has to muscle its way through stone or cement, taking advantage of any cracks it can find to get past my resistance.

I am not female and cannot know the experience, but the spring metaphor of giving birth is one that I draw on when I know something important is trying to be born in me and the process is both painful and hope-filled. Usually, I don't know exactly what that baby will be or look like until it is born, though occasionally, some deep reflection will give me fuzzy clues in an ultrasound of sorts. This pandemic year, it feels like

I may be giving birth to triplets. I am so curious to meet them!

To what are you giving birth this year, I wonder? What becoming is pushing through the surface – or trying to – into the new day?

I look forward to gradually discovering our becomings, how they will shape each of us, and how they will shape our UU Community of the Mountains.

A presentation I attended this week, titled "Church 2.0," an ultrasound of sorts, suggested that our collective pandemic experience has greatly fast-forwarded an entire constellation of changes that were already underway for religious communities. The message was that religious communities are going to manifest quite differently in the future, and sooner than we think.

I hope and trust that you will bring your personal new manifesting, your current becoming, to the journey, so that together we may give birth to ways of being that now best foster compassion, sustainability, justice, and the most needed courageous love.

with care,

- Rev. Kevin

Board of Trustees



Jim Perkins, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees

Greetings fellow UU's!

Oh joy! It's budget time again for the Board. Developing next year's budget is about a four month project spearheaded by Bob Packard, our Treasurer, and the Finance Committee chaired by Gail Schulz. The final proposed budget will be announced before the Congregational Business Meeting in May, but I want to highlight one development that has me very excited.

Bob and the Committee have budgeted money for the accrual of funds to support major maintenance and capital improvements. Even if we sell the building there are repairs that need to be made. These include replacing the sanctuary and the family ministry windows; painting the exterior of the church; repairing the back wall; plumbing replacement; rebuilding the patio; and razing the School Street garages. These are projected to be done over the next five years, with money accruing every year in designated reserve funds. This is the first time we have budgeted for such items and it's a major advancement in our budgeting process. In the past such items have always been just funded out of reserves.

Another budget item we are discussing is the pay for Rev. Kevin's replacement(s) while he's on sabbatical, which will probably be during the 2022-23 fiscal year. We're talking about guest ministers and speakers for two to three weeks per month during the five months that Rev. Kevin will be away



UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021

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

Members at Large:

Janet Dunstan, Gene Gilligan & Reine Thibeault

The next Board of Trustees business meeting will be held on the third Wednesday, April 21, 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.

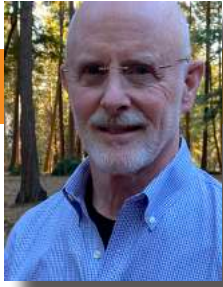
and possibly a part-time (5 to 10 hours per week) minister to provide pastoral care and perhaps attend the Board meetings and some team meetings. We think Rev. Kevin has gotten us so well-organized that the church and its dedicated volunteers can manage well in his absence, but we will be making a final decision about this at a future meeting.

Also, the Pandemic Ad Hoc Committee has decided not to make any changes to its recommendations regarding policies for handling the pandemic. An e-mail reviewing those policies, which have been approved by the Board, was already sent the last week of March. Please take a look.

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.

Be well,

—Jim



Treasurer

*Bob Packard, Treasurer,
UUCM Board of Trustees*



Stewardship

*Maryann Currington,
Chair, Stewardship Team*

Recent Tax Rules that Might Help

Because of changes to the federal tax code made in 2017 through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the standard deduction was raised. That simplified filing to the point where 9 in 10 taxpayers do not have enough deductions now to make submitting that data helpful. They take the standard deduction. Then last spring, the CARES Act allowed standard deduction filers to also deduct up to an additional \$300 for cash donations to charities like UUCM, effectively lowering their taxes. We should all make sure our tax submission includes this. (April 15th is pretty soon, isn't it?) The tax letter Carol Fulkerson sends out is our documentary evidence for that \$300.

That special tax break was originally for 2020 only, but then the December 2020 Pandemic Relief Bill extended it for 2021 and, for married couples, increased the maximum amount deductible to \$600 (next year's filing). The limit for 2020 was \$300 per return, not per person.

For those of you who still itemize, the limits on cash donations to charity have been increased to 100 percent of income for 2020 and 2021. (So – if you give UUCM all of your income, you don't have to pay any federal income taxes. Isn't that nice? As Casey Stengel used to say, "You could look it up.")

An Even Bigger Tax Savings, If You're "Qualified"

Do you withdraw money from your 401K or IRA? Normally money withdrawn from a Qualified Retirement Account (IRA, 401K, Keogh plan, and most retirement plans offered through your job) is taxable. But – you can arrange for it not to be taxable if you are at least 70½ years old, and you have the account custodian (Charles Schwab, Fidelity, etc.) send the money directly to the charitable institution (like UUCM) in your name.

In that case, the money will not be taxable income for you. This is common practice for these institutions, and they will help you make the arrangements, which require little more than sending the custodian a letter and maybe making a follow-up telephone call. If this applies to you, and you are trying to think of a way to increase your UUCM pledge, decreasing your income tax this way might be part of the solution. If it's too late for 2020, you have plenty of time left to get this tax benefit in 2021.

And... We're Off!

The UUCM 2021-22 Pledge Drive is now in full gear. We've heard the testimonials, received our letter and our "Life Calls Us On" CD. A second letter with your pledge card has been mailed. Our visiting stewards are in the process of contacting each of us to ask for our pledges.

We thank you in advance for your continuing generosity and willingness to share your time, talent and treasure with our Community. This coming fiscal year will be a time of transition and accommodation for us all.

As we begin to think about resuming services in the church, we want to continue to provide a rich experience for those who join us through internet technology. We will need to improve our capability of sharing these live services. At the same time, when we are back in our aging building, we need to tackle repairs and upgrade our facilities. With increasing numbers of attendees, we need to provide more support for our minister with additional staff. And of course, all of our teams are eager to get back in the world to do the important work of justice and right relations.

All of these needs require setting priorities and making hard choices. Your generosity will allow us to make better choices and provide the resources to support our mission.

As you talk with your visiting steward, please think about how you can best support our Community. **And please, make certain to return your pledge form to the church office before April 15.** (Earlier is even better!)

You have the grateful thanks of your fellow members of UUCM, our wonderful Community.

With our love and respect,

Gail Shulz & Maryann Currington





Caring Team

Gwen Eymann
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team

It has been 13 months since we shut the doors at UUCM and we have been in this state of limited contact with each other. I have such fond memories of last year's burning of the mortgage at our big in-person congregational dinner, and I look forward to times when we can gather together again in celebration. Until then, we will hold strong as a faith community and be proud of the ways we have held together creatively 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 have formed a pet support group for those who have had pets who have died or have pets with serious health issues. The group meets on the last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. The first meeting was on March 26. Call Carol Hyndman at 477-0693 OR email Robin Hart (rhstarbird@gmail.com) for more information.

PET SUPPORT GROUP ZOOM LINK:

<https://zoom.us/j/96665962308?pwd=SG1tWDBndDVUUhRaNDlRmo3WWptZz09>

Meeting ID: 966 6596 2308

Passcode: 585912

Join by phone

1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 966 6596 2308

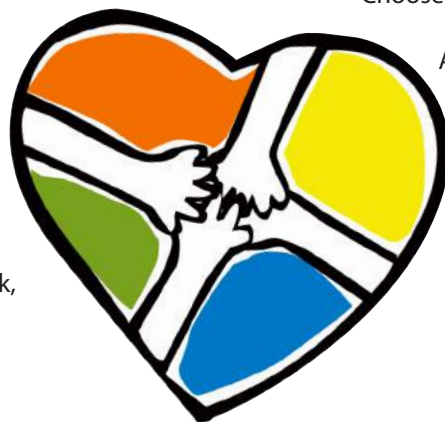
Passcode: 585912

PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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

If you have need of assistance or know someone who might, or just want to know more about our work, please feel free to contact us by email:

Caring@uugrassvalley.org or
gweneymann@gmail.com



Opportunity Fair!



Come to the UUCM Opportunity Fair!

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1:00-2:30 PM VIA ZOOM

Come, find your sweet spot! In a fun, interactive session, learn about the many opportunities there are to connect, participate, and contribute at UUCM. As Rev. Kevin reminds us, contributing your time, energy, and talent is important not only to the health and strength of the congregation, but also to enrich you as a member of this community.

UUCM Team and Committee leaders and members will share brief descriptions of their teams in their virtual "booths" and answer your questions about the kind of things they do. Choose four opportunities to explore.

As we move into the months ahead, your participation will be essential to UUCM's future.

Watch for a ZOOM invitation link later this month.

Come to the Fair!

Justice News and Activities

Justice News

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 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

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 sends spring greetings to all! Special thanks to those who have volunteered so faithfully, rain, snow or shine! Special thanks also to the caring folks who have donated funds to help feed our community, including those who have been hard hit by Covid, economic tragedy and cold weather.

IFM was voted in the top three of the Best of Nevada County in two categories: General Nonprofit and Community Nonprofit. If you took time to nominate and vote for IFM, a big thank you.

Our Owen's Shred Day fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please bring what you need to have shredded to 426 Sutton Way in Grass Valley. The suggested donation is \$10 per bag/box. Volunteers are needed, including people who can do administrative tasks and make phone calls. Please contact Naomi Cabral at IFM.

Also, Easter gift bags for children are being assembled! We need donations for supplies and volunteers to assemble the bags. To help, contact Carrie Karl at: lifebeginswhen46@gmail.com

Many thanks to all of you for helping IFM help those with food insecurity in our community.

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



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 have decided to keep the sculpture in the garden and do seasonal things with it, such as decorating it in Spring and Easter themes. We will still be photographing the progress and posting the photos in the e-chalice.

Have you noticed the lovely center-of-interest displays at the church for Sunday service? They are the work of our team member Shanti Emerson. Well done Shanti!

We are in the process of planning something special for the back garden in addition to the sculpture, working with other teams including Building and Grounds. Stay tuned for exciting news concerning this new project which will give outside access to members and friends in the coming months.

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 February, [KARE Crisis Nursery](#) will receive \$915.50! Your generosity will support the wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable young people in our community. Thank you, everyone!

We are currently completing March collections for [Animal Place](#).



In April, our partner is [Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release](#), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife. Each year this volunteer-funded organization returns over 100 different species of native wildlife to the wild, including mammals, bats, songbirds, and raptors.

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 (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-slows 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, APRIL 7, 11:00 AM

Here is the Zoom meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92259246223?pwd=ZG10YlpxSkRHcDkxaGRSMWV1enVsdz09>



Memes have become a popular part of social media and our culture. Many memes are used in a negative manner, such as cancel culture, snowflake, tree-hugger, and many more. We will try to create our own memes of a positive nature

and share them in our meeting. Put on your thinking cap and come up with a meme that will inspire us and others. Feel free to use graphics if you're so inclined and capable. See you on April 7.

To be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan: 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 to get on the list for future walks.

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

Family Ministry for All Ages

At UU Community of the Mountains, we take a multi-generational approach to becoming a welcoming community for all.



*Now, I Love You.
Now, I Witness.*

By Theresa I. Soto

*I know sometimes you get cranky,
And sometimes your tea gets cold
Before you can drink it. Sometimes
The news is too much. The resistance
Seems too little. That's real. But we are
Here. Imperfect and together and reaching.
You can hold my hand if you want. I washed
It with soap. It's OK. In this kind of time,
Now is better than later. Now, I love you.
Now, I am sorry it hurts. Now, I witness
Your struggle, and mine. Sometimes
One answer is to be a yes in the face of
Every no. I am a yes for you. Now and again
Later, if you need me.*

April at UUCM's Family Ministry

By Rene Wiley

The month of April in Religious Exploration provides a fantastic opportunity to explore the many ways our UU faith invites us to explore being "A People of Becoming." Here are four angles on Becoming by:

Letting Go and Letting In –

Becoming requires some letting go so we can let in the new!

Finding Your True Self –

"Resist what others want you to be and become your true and unique self!"

Becoming People of the Earth -

"Honor your connection to the earth by becoming a protector of it!"

Making Hopeful Predictions -

"Predict the future as best you can but be open and trust what unfolds."

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)

Lindsay and Walt host the **59Kids Connection** group with games and sharing ideas around these lessons. Wednesdays online at 5:15 p.m. Contact familyministry@uugrassvalley.org for link.



**WELCOME TO
CHALICE HOME'S
CELEBRATION OF
BEING**

By Katie Covey from Soul Matters

Welcome to Chalice Home for April and our exploration of the theme of Becoming. 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.

UUCM Family Ministry

In our first home worship this month, we explore how we are growing and who we have become in the past year. It's been a challenging year for all of us, to say the least. But despite the challenges (and maybe even because of them,) there's still been room for a lot of growth. This worship invites us to step back and notice the ways our tastes, skills, loves, habits and friendships have changed and expanded. To honor that growing, we invite you to add a measuring tape to your Chalice Home. We are always becoming something new. Let's celebrate that together!

In our second home worship, we explore the ways we are becoming people of the earth, in honor of the fact that Earth Day is one of April's special holidays. In our faith and in our families, we celebrate the interdependent web of life and our calling to become caretakers of our planet. In fact, we become caretakers of the earth often only after we feel and recognize our deep connection to it. There's a new word called Eutierria (pronounced: *You tee air ia*) which means "a positive feeling of oneness with the earth and its life forces where the boundaries between self and the rest of nature are obliterated and a deep sense of peace and connectedness pervades consciousness." (eu =good, tierra = earth, ia = suffix for members of a group of conditions. Albrecht 2010) In honor of this, we will add a symbolic part of nature to our Chalice Home. Will it be a potted flower, a houseplant, a piece of driftwood, a pinecone? We will also invite family members to share a personal story of ways you care for the Earth. May this spirit of becoming bless and bring to life your days!

Click here to access the entire [Chalice Home - April](#)

UU YOUNG ADULT REVIVAL NETWORK!

Young Adults everywhere connect with ministry at uuyarn.org
Subscribe to the [Sweet Potato Newsletter](#)



YARN WORSHIP SERIES
SUNDAY, APRIL 18 8:00 PM
ET/5:00 PM PACIFIC TIME

YARN organizes a monthly worship by and for UU young adults, held on the third Sunday of the month.



THE FLAME – A
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
PODCAST BY
RODDY BIGGS

[Follow the Flame](#)

Book Groups



SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

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*)

The two book groups have now merged into a single book group, held on the first Sunday of each month, unless announced otherwise as in this month.

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 Becoming?

From the Soul Matters Authors

It's become popular in our society to talk about spiritual journeys as a process of living into your full or true self, of letting the authentic seed inside you unfold. We UU's agree. We even enshrined it in our principles that celebrate each of our unique seeds (inherent worth) and unique journeys (a free and responsible search).

At the same time, there's something deep within UUism that pushes in the opposite direction. Historically, we've been "leavers" - people who struggled not so much to find ourselves but to untangle ourselves from the religious identities we were given. Our spiritual journeys did not begin with a blank slate; they began with the hunger to wipe that slate clean and begin anew.

So we have this important awareness that spiritual journeys are not simply about unfolding your true self, but also about untangling from your old self. We agree with Albert Schweitzer who wrote:

"The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not."

Which means we are also sensitive to the fact that most spiritual journeys begin with a goodbye - a separation, a decision to walk away. We know that the first step is often laced with mourning, difficult endings and, all too often, isolation. We know that "unbecoming" is not easy work.

We also know that it isn't a one-time thing. We find ourselves routinely tempted into and thus tangled up in all kinds of identities and journeys that aren't truly ours. "Unbecoming who you are not" is a journey we walk every day, over and over again.

So what does all this mean for us this month? Well, first, it's an important reminder that we're not just here to help each other hold steady and persevere on our current paths. Often our primary gift is to help each other find and take the exit ramps.

It also means remembering that being a people of becoming involves tenderness. We are here not just to make room for each other's unique stories; we are also here to make room for each other's pain. Again, "unbecoming who you are not" involves bravely walking away, enduring isolation and navigating grief. And so, if we are going to complete our journeys of unbecoming and becoming anew, we're definitely going to need pit stops of kindness and tenderness along the way.

May this month be a time of pulling into one of those pit stops, together. Let the unraveling begin!



Soul Matters

Upcoming Soul Matters Themes

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

April:	Becoming
May:	Story
June:	Play

April 2021 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION
APRIL 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
1	Thursday	8:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group via Zoom Singing Meditation Circle
2	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
4	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
6	Tuesday	4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
7	Wednesday	8:30 AM 11:00 AM 4:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group via Zoom Worship Team Meeting Kids Connection Hour Choir
8	Thursday	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Men's Group via Zoom Writers' Group
9	Friday	10:00 AM 4:00 PM	Executive Council Meeting Friday Afternoon Check In
10	Saturday	4:00 PM	Non Violent Communication Workshop begins
11	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Book Group
12	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
13	Tuesday	4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Reading Group
14	Wednesday	8:30 AM 1:30 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting Kids Connection Hour Choir

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
15	Thursday	8:00 AM 5:00 PM	Men's Group via Zoom Social Justice Meeting
16	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
18	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
21	Wednesday	8:30 AM 3:00 PM 3:30 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Closed Board of Trustees Meeting Public Board of Trustees Meeting Kids Connection Hour Choir
22	Thursday	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Men's Group via Zoom Writers' Group
23	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
25	Sunday	10:30 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle UUCM Opportunity Fair
27	Tuesday	4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Task Force
28	Wednesday	8:30 AM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Kids Connection Hour Choir
29	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
30	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Telephone: 530.274.1675 Website: 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*

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

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

MtChalice@uugrassvalley.org

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

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