

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

June 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)

### JUNE THEME:

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

**June 6**     **Deep Play**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa,  
with Beth Karow, Worship Associate

*We enter this month's theme of play guided by Diane Ackerman's notion of deep play, "when acting and thinking becomes one, (and) there is no room left for other thoughts." After fourteen and a half months of navigating pandemic life and death, we search this month for play that is liberating, revealing, healing, and transcendent.*

**June 13**     **Handfuls of Insight**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa,  
with Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

*We continue our exploration of play, and all things real and important, with the help of a few very special friends.*

**June 20**     **Dancing at the Edge of Summer**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Jeff Stone,  
Worship Associate

*The summer solstice arrives on this Sunday, Father's Day, a handful of days after California is scheduled to "fully reopen its economy." We'll all be dancing at more than one important edge as summer arrives and we try to sense the road ahead. Let us welcome it with open eyes, open minds, and open hearts, even though we will not know exactly where the moment leads.*

**June 27**     **Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, Courage**  
**UUA General Assembly**

*More than 10,000 screens tuned in last year to this largest annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists in worship. This year's online service is led by the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, which has been a model of shared ministry and what it means to put the work of dismantling white supremacy and building anti-racist, anti-oppressive practices at the center of their ministry.*

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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

What DOES it mean to be a people of play?

As I write, I, like a number of you, have been immersed in reading *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, a powerfully moving truth-telling regarding the systems of hierarchy held in place in the United States. I've also been immersed in watching "The Underground Railroad," a Netflix series based on Colson Whitehead's novel of the same name.

Each in its own way surfaces truth after very painful truth of human inhumanity, such that the sum total, the enormity and strength of the social and emotional dynamics in place in our nation and world, not to mention the human suffering, is registering in my body, in my bones, in new and transformative ways.

It makes it difficult to consider a focus on "play!"

And yet, as with every one of our monthly themes, here too, the theme provides a lens that asks, that in fact forces, me to search more deeply and to perceive in out-of-the-ordinary ways.

So, in June we will bring the lens of "play" to the important and pressing themes of the day. Play not as frivolous activity, but play as liberating and even life-saving.

I know that many of you are feeling significant transitions and/or unease in your hearts and minds, just as pandemic concerns relax a little. The past 14 months of experience and change have led to early birth pangs now, as more energy becomes available to think beyond survival again, and as small steps into "what was" shed light on what has changed inside of us.

It's like putting on familiar clothing that we haven't worn in a while, only to discover that it doesn't quite fit anymore, at least not in the same way. Some places pinch, some places hang too loosely, and for the first time we notice frayed edges, or stains, or missing buttons. (How long has it been like that without my noticing?)



I say this to name once again that you are not alone, that this is the current "norm" for many, even as we also delight in great beauty, the joy of re-connections, and the excitement of visions for the future. As Adam Grant offered in *The New York Times* on April 19, we are navigating an understandable feeling of "languishing," what he suggests may be "the dominant emotion of 2021."

Not a happy thought, at face value. But that's not the end of the story.

In a May 4 piece in *The New York Times*, Dani Blum suggests that on the other side of languishing is flourishing, and that there are steps we can take to get there.

So, if and when you are carrying that "something's not right" worry, if and when you are discouraged by your own feeling of languishing, know that it doesn't necessarily mean

that something is ultimately wrong. Feeling that feeling of languishing may be exactly what you must live through, what you need, in order to perceive more clearly and to find your way from the past to the flourishing that is to come.

True for us as individuals. True for us as a congregation. True for us as a nation.

As we find our way together - through the languishing - some meaningful experiences of play may be just the thing.

with care,

- Rev. Kevin

# Board of Trustees



*Jim Perkins, President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees*

Greetings fellow UU's!

The highlight of this month was the very successful congregational business meeting held on Sunday, May 23. Over 50 people participated and the meeting went very smoothly. The budget for the next fiscal year was passed without any objections, which means the finance committee did an excellent job in compiling it. Thank you for your good work.

Next came the election of the Board of Trustees. Here is how the Board will look next year: Pam Kisor, President; Gail Schulz, Vice-President; Rene Wiley, Secretary; Bob Packard, Treasurer. There are three Members at Large: Janet Dunstan, Reine Thibeault and Sharon Walters. It looks like an outstanding collection of officers; thank you all for your willingness to serve. The election of officers is normally followed by the election of the nominating committee to serve next year. This year there were no volunteers interested in serving, so a motion was made to have the Board take responsibility for recruiting a committee and report back to the membership at the mid-year meeting. However, during the discussion, two of this year's members volunteered to serve again next year. Our profound appreciation to Lin Jovanovic and Susan Merrill for stepping up to serve again. They will work with the Board to recruit the rest of the committee.

A lot of effort, work and planning goes into making a successful meeting, and I want to express my appreciation to the Board, the committee chairs, Rev Kevin and David Samson for pulling this off so spectacularly. We have gotten quite good at planning large virtual meetings.

In other news, the Board has approved recommendations from the UUCM Pandemic Health and Safety Committee to increase to 20 the number of people who can meet outside if they continue to social-distance and wear masks. These groups include our weekly walking groups and Soul Matters circles, etc. There were some other policy changes which will go out in an email to the congregation soon.

## 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 & Reine Thibeault

*The next Board of Trustees business meeting will be held on the third Wednesday, June 16, 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.*

Finally, this is my last Chalice column as your president. I want to say what an honor it has been to serve. I had an outstanding Board to work with and I really appreciate all of your efforts and support during this year. Thank you. I also want to include a special note of appreciation to Rev. Kevin for his tireless efforts and support. What a joy this has been! And I leave you in the very competent hands of a new Board who will carry on the tradition of service and ministry.

Be well,

*—Jim*

As always, 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 at: [secretary@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:secretary@uugrassvalley.org).



## Stewardship

Maryann Currington,  
Chair, Stewardship Team

### Gratitude for a Dedicated Steward

May was a particularly beautiful month. There were so many days of clear blue skies and gentle breezes and by the end of this wonderful month we received 96.5% of our 2021-2022 pledges totaling \$237,129. That's 7.82% over 2020-2021! Congratulations to all of us. Our beloved UUCM is going into the next fiscal year well-funded. It amazes me that from a year of confusion, isolation and, well, strangeness, our congregation stayed strong, generous and committed. We did have beautiful online services and so many efforts to keep us connected. We are a very special community.

Our Stewardship Team is losing a very exceptional member: Keith Johnson. After serving on Stewardship since 2006 and chairing the Team for at least five years, Keith is taking a well-deserved leave. Keith, as a true leader, was direct and organized. He had a clear vision of Stewardship as a necessary and spiritual expression of generosity. Keith was straight forward, delegated well and got the job done. After serving on Keith's Team for a few years, it became apparent that Keith's commitment and strength came from his deeply held UU values. He put his beliefs into action. You will find Keith working in the kitchen at Hospitality House, volunteering for Sierra Roots or delivering meals for Habitat for Humanity. I'm sure this is just a partial list. Keith strongly believes in Social Justice and he follows his commitment with action.



I am so thankful to have served on Stewardship with Keith. I learned how to organize and lead but, most importantly, his example of selfless generosity with time, talent and treasure has become a high standard that will serve me through my tenure as Stewardship Chairperson.

Please continue to send your donations to your 2020-2021 Pledge. We have until June 30th to complete these pledges. If you mail your donation by check, please indicate the % of your donation that should be applied to your 2020-2021 Pledge.

Please email with any questions concerning either your 2020-2021 Pledge or your 2021-2022 Pledge.  
[murrington1944@gmail.com](mailto:murrington1944@gmail.com).

*With love and respect,  
Maryann Currington*



## Art & Aesthetics

Robin Hart, Chair,  
Art & Aesthetics Team

Thank you to the congregation for participating in the community sculpture over the last months. It has been wonderful to see all the creative touches that members have incorporated into the sculpture since we erected it last Fall. The sculpture will now be dismantled and if there are any parts or personal possessions that people want, we will leave them in the back yard for a couple of weeks before discarding them.

Stay tuned for information in the coming months about a collaboration of multiple teams in the re-visioning of the back yard space.

The A&A Team was proud to be part of the Opportunity Fair that took place on April 25th. Linda Siska spearheaded the event and members greeted a number of visitors who came in to chat with us and find out about our great creative team. We hope that this event will help us to grow the team in the new church year.

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

*- Robin*

## 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.



## Caring Team

Gwen Eymann  
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team

For many of us, our lives are returning to a version that looks almost normal. While we aren't completely done with mask-wearing, now that so many folks are immune to Covid-19, we are getting to see actual faces of those we pass on the streets. I am hearing of long-awaited reunions of family and friends, and of finally getting to hug our children and grandchildren as well as our friends. We have longed for these connections for so many months.

We, on the Parish Care 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 during these times of Covid and even beyond.

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 fourth Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. The next meeting will be on June 25. Call Carol Hyndman at (530) 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=SG1tWDBndDVUUHRaNDlRmo3WWptZz09>

Meeting ID: 966 6596 2308

Passcode: 585912

Join by phone

1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 966 6596 2308

Passcode: 585912

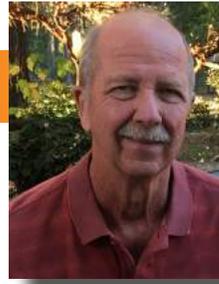
-Gwen

### PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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

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



## B & G Team

Wally Holtan  
Chair, Building & Grounds Team

## A Safe Way to Socialize AND Help!

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the beautiful weather. Our best news is that we had a *real* work day and for that I am very grateful. It was the first one in 14 months! Ten volunteers showed up for a day of projects and weeding; the weather was perfect and we accomplished much more than I hoped we would. What a hardworking group of volunteers! Thanks to George and Keith for fixing our garage door handle and locking mechanism. Thanks to Kern and Paul who repaired the rafter in the attic and also installed the air conditioner in the main R.E. meeting room upstairs. Our weeding crew consisted of Chuck and Lesley, Gwen, Theresa, Connie, Keith, and George. Joel fixed our UUCM sign lights so we are lit up again. George and Keith did a water line repair in the front yard, and the back yard was mowed by me. It was a very productive day. Thank you to all who volunteered.

Being with people again in real time felt so very good. It has been a long time coming and I am glad that we are now allowed to meet in small groups outside. Hopefully by next month we might be able to move inside too so we can start preparing our building for more indoor activities.

As I have stated before, these UUCM work days are a great place for people to meet and socialize while we accomplish needed projects for our beloved community building. Hope to see you next month.

-Wally



A good-sized group of ten volunteers showed up **IN PERSON** for a day of weeding, repairs, mowing and more. It felt great to be together again!

### Get to Know Anita Wald-Tuttle, A UUCM Original

by Jenny Dewey

A tribute to Anita Wald-Tuttle demands focus on her life-long eagerness to engage in all manner of causes. In celebrating the happy occasion of Anita's 94th birthday the question arises: Where ought such a focus begin? What are the high points, what are the lows?

Anita exemplifies the quintessential Unitarian activist. She is kinetic, industrious and hard-working. A belief in actuating Unitarian principles motivates Anita, and while age creeps in, her exertions do not falter.

Born in Iowa and raised in conventional circumstances, Anita describes her mother as "a German Lutheran and a racist." While yet very young Anita rejected the concept of Heaven and Hell. She resented the "bible thumping" noise of traditional preachers and discovered herself, in her own words, "a natural caregiver."

Anita was a young woman when she broke away from the traditions of her family. She bloomed and thrived. Blessed with an inquiring mind, she has spent her life moving forward, eagerly embracing change.

A first marriage Anita describes as "one of convenience, not love," brought three daughters and a son. When her first child was two, Anita felt her daughter ought to have some form of religious experience. A friend introduced her to a Unitarian congregation where she watched her little girl thrive.

Anita told her mother about joining the Unitarian community and her mother replied saying "Unitarianism is a sect."

The remark did not effect change in Anita's mind. If anything it strengthened her determination to delve ever deeper into the principles of Unitarianism. She was especially drawn to social activism. For Anita the Unitarian principles offered permission to engage with enthusiasm.



Anita has always felt particular compassion for the young. At one point in her training as an Occupational Therapist she was assigned to an institution for orphans where she was told to "rock the babies."

This experience, and others like it, strengthened her determination to take action for the sake of children. A stint working with children disabled by the drug Thalidomide deepened her concern.

Anita's second marriage was to a Unitarian. This marriage was motivated by love. Anita describes how her second marriage introduced her to the concept of sensitivity, allowing her to express openly feelings long tamped down by early training. She worked alongside her husband, joining a pro-abortion group, the Gray Panthers, Paul Erlich's Zero

Population cause, and eventually Grandmothers for Peace.

Anita is a joiner. She has never been one to hang back. Her perseverance contributed immensely to the forming of a strong Unitarian community in Grass Valley. A busy and efficient brain, management skills, an ability to work effectively with people, especially the young, create the tapestry of Anita's extraordinary 94 years. None can dispute the significance of such a life as the one Anita has lived.

When interviewing Anita this writer observed a thoughtful constancy. In trying times or good, constancy is basic to making headway. Trust and faith and love play significant roles. Anita Wald-Tuttle can be characterized by all these traits.

Anita has been involved in many worthy causes. Each one is a reflection of her beliefs; the Interfaith Food Ministry, board member of Connecting Point, member of Move to Amend, and Citizens for Climate Change to name a few.

Those of us who know Anita wish for her many more productive years beyond her 94th anniversary.

# Justice News and Activities

## Justice News

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 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**

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.

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

Contact: Anne Lyon (619) 933-1618

### **SIERRA ROOTS**

Sierra Roots is a local homeless advocacy group which requests assistance in operating a cold weather shelter and their one-on-one advocacy program.

Contact: Keith Johnson (530) 265-0277

### **SYRCL**

The South Yuba River Citizens League is dedicated to preserving and protecting the South Yuba River. Volunteer opportunities include river monitoring, becoming a river ambassador, and clerical support.

Contact: Keith Johnson (530) 265-0277

## Justice News and Activities, continued...

### 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 April, [Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release](#) will receive \$846.25! Thank you, everyone!

We are currently completing May collections for [Nevada County Citizens for Choice](#).

Our June partner is [Sierra Streams Institute](#), a local watershed monitoring, research, and restoration group whose mission is to link water, science and people for the benefit of human and environmental health.

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



### A Pass-the-Plate Success Story!

*If you ever wonder whether your Pass-the-Plate donations make a difference, here's proof!*

The above photo includes Lynn Woerner, executive director of the KARE Crisis Nursery as she receives UUCM's pass-the-plate donation from Justice Team chair Steve Temple and Rev. Kevin. Lynn gave Steve and Rev. Kevin a wonderful tour, and the resulting conversation generated ideas for other kinds of hands-on support UUCM might offer. Stay tuned!

### Supporting Fair Trade



ORGANIC SHADE-GROWN FAIR TRADE COFFEE AVAILABLE!

By Joyce Banzhaf

Please consider buying *Just Coffee*, the organic, fair-trade coffee where all the money goes to the growers and workers.

You may order coffee by emailing me at [joycebanzhaf@yahoo.com](mailto:joycebanzhaf@yahoo.com) and asking for Robusta (high caffeine), Arabica, or Decaf. Also, please specify 1 or 5 pounds, regular or dark roast, whole beans or ground. Coffee is \$9 for a one pound bag, and \$38 for a five pound bag. Decaf is \$10 for one pound, and \$42 for five pounds. Once I get 30 pounds of orders, I will send in the order. Thanks for supporting organic, shade-grown coffee where all profit goes to the coop workers in Mexico.

### Climate Change

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)



UUCM friend Julia Tracey happily shows off her CCL sign!

# 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, JUNE 2, 11:00 AM

Here is the Zoom meeting link:

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



For our topic this month we'll discuss the article "America Without God" from the April 2021 issue of *The Atlantic*. The subtitle to the article reads "As religious faith has declined, ideological intensity has risen. Will the quest for secular redemption through politics doom the American idea?" There is much to discuss in this article and it should lead to an interesting meeting.

Here's the link to the article:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/04/america-politics-religion/618072/>

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

### WALKING GROUP

Tuesdays: Wolf Creek Trail, meet at the Northstar Mine Parking Lot, 8:00 AM. Thursdays: meet at 418 Chapel St, GV at 8:00 AM for local walk with social time afterward. Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcome. Please contact Theresa Houtman at [Walking@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Walking@uugrassvalley.org) to get on the list for 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)

## Chalice Home's Celebration of Play

By Katie Covey, for the Soul Matters Team

Welcome to [Chalice Home for June](#) and our exploration of the theme of Play. 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. In our first home worship this month, we explore play by sharing the games which connect us, using a favorite game token or two as the object(s) to add to your Chalice Home. Maybe it is a token from a game which is played over and over again – the one everyone refers to as “the family favorite.” Maybe it is that one special game brought out when a beloved family member visits. Maybe it’s each person’s favorite game, symbolizing the uniqueness of each family member and how your family takes turns picking family games. This worship will then invite everyone to share what they love about the game and how it makes them feel connected to each other.

In our second home worship, we engage families with the widely loved UU Water Ceremony Ritual, sometimes referred to as “Water Communion.” This ritual invites families to collect symbolic water over the summer and then bring it to their home altar or perhaps the congregation’s homecoming/ingathering/opening service in the fall. The water is often seen as representing and celebrating the many ways summertime nourishes and restores us, just as water nourishes and restores us. So for instance, some families bring in water from a favorite pool or water park they frequented or a lake where they camped. Others might bring some tap water from their grandparent’s house they visited. Some bring water they used to tend to gardens. Still others collect water that represents how water wove fun into their summer days, such as water from squirt toys, sprinkles or slip-n-slides. So much of the water that families collect is about how summer nourishes us by telling us to “Get out and play!” It is that playful spirit of fun and adventure we lift up and prepare for in this second worship ritual. And in that spirit, we hope this entire month nourishes you too, blessing you with the call to fun, adventure and connection!

## Summer RE Pumpkin Patch

By Rene Wiley

Join us for a fun and engaging Unitarian Universalist faith-centered garden project for all ages of children and youth! Build beloved community with play, the pondering of big questions, patch-tending, and a little help from Maisie the dog.

The Wileys’ back lot has been adopted and prepared as a big space for growing pumpkins and community. All ages of kids are invited to bring friends to grow with us. The project focuses on outdoorsy RE connection to our seven UU Principles and engagement for families and members throughout the summer. We have a goal to provide pumpkins for UUCM’s October events of Jack-O-Lantern Carving Party and The Second Annual UUCM Pumpkin Altar.

*Big thanks to our generous pumpkin start-up supporters:*

### COMPOST AND GARDEN SOIL:

Carol Fulkerson, Lesley & Chuck Champlin, Penny Harlan, Suzanne Ferroggiaro

**STRAW BALES:** Scottie Hart, Martha Turner, George & Janet Dunstan

**SEEDS:** Anita Wald-Tuttle, Connie Wright, Theresa Houtmann

### OUR NEW FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM CHAIR!

UUCM is lucky to have Jo Waters starting as the new Chair of Family Ministry in July! Jo brings her wholehearted dedication to faith development and years of experience in RE to the role. She begins by guiding the Family Ministry team with a visioning retreat led by special guest and UUCM friend, Kristin Famula, next month. We look forward to Jo’s wonderful leadership and direction as she helps shape RE and Family Ministry for the next two years.

### NEW EMERGING ADULT TEAM!

Announcing the formation of a group to serve our 18-24 year olds. Members Lindsay Dunckel, Jo Waters, Rene Wiley and Cass Frost bring their hearts and energy to focus on growing this much needed area of ministry.





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

From the  
*Soul Matters Authors*

We all are playing.  
Playing it up, playing it  
down, trying to play fair.  
Playing for keeps, playing  
favorites, playing it safe,  
sometimes too safe.

He plays hardball; They're  
playing house; I'm playing it by ear,

or at least learning to play it by ear.

She's tired of playing second fiddle; He's playing  
right into their hands.

Please God, can't we all just throw out the  
playbook and start again?

Sometimes we're just played out; it's not  
always bad to play possum.

And what about playing with fire?

Let's hope so friends.

Don't you want to feel again that burning within,  
and let it loose?

Welcome to the month of play.

May we all take it seriously!



### UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1:00 PM

Here is the list of upcoming Book Group selections for the next several months. Order early to make sure you get them in time!

**June 6** - *Braiding Sweet Grass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer  
Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist and as a indigenous woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings —asters, goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae and sweet grass—offer us gifts and lessons even if we have forgotten how to hear their stories.

**July 11** (note date change due to July 4th holiday) -  
*A Funny Kind of Paradise* by Jo Owens  
A first novel about end of life and caregivers that's guaranteed to challenge your preconceived notions and leave you uplifted. There is even a suggested music playlist.

**August 8** - *The Postscript Murders* by Ella Griffiths  
This is our summer beach read.

**September 5** - *The Transit Of Venus* by Shirley Hazzard  
Start Looking now for this republished book.

**October** - *The Holy Men Trilogy* by Susan Trott  
We have committed to reading and discussing the first book but we have the whole summer to delve into the others if we wish.

**November** - *Wintering, The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times* by Katherine May  
A poignant and comforting meditation on the fallow periods of life, times when we must retreat to care for and repair ourselves.

All meetings will be scheduled every month on the first Sunday at 1:00 PM by Zoom until UUCM begins to follow CDC guidelines and we meet in person again. All are welcome to join for any or all discussions. Please contact Theresa Houtman at (530) 277-9294 or [BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org) if you have questions or wish to be added to the email list.

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### 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)

# June 2021 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

## JUNE 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.*

1	Tuesday	8:00 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine Caring Team Meeting
2	Wednesday	8:30 AM 11:00 AM 4:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Humanism Discussion Group Worship Team Meeting Kids Connection Hour Choir
3	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Walking Group/ Meet @ Houtmans' Singing Meditation Circle
4	Friday	10:00 AM 4:00 PM	Executive Council Meetings Friday Afternoon Check In
6	Sunday	10:30 AM 11:45 AM 1:00 PM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle Sunday Book Group
8	Tuesday	8:00 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine Challenging White Privilege Reading Group
9	Wednesday	8:30 AM 1:30 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Finance Committee Meeting Kids Connection Hour Choir
10	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Men's Group Walking Group/ Meet @ Houtmans' Writers' Group
11	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
13	Sunday	10:30 AM 11:45 AM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
14	Monday	5:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
15	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

16	Wednesday	8:30 AM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Board of Trustees Meeting Kids Connection Hour Choir
17	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:00 AM 5:00 PM	Men's Group Walking Group/ Meet @ Houtmans' Social Justice Meeting
18	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
20	Sunday	10:30 AM 11:45 AM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
22	Tuesday	8:00 AM 4:00 PM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine Challenging White Privilege Task Force
23	Wednesday	8:30 AM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Group Kids Connection Hour Choir
24	Thursday	8:00 AM 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Men's Group Walking Group/ Meet @ Houtmans' Writers' Group
25	Friday	10:00 AM 4:00 PM	Pet Loss Support Group Friday Afternoon Check In
27	Sunday	10:30 AM 11:45 AM	Sunday Service Drop-in Support Circle
29	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
30	Wednesday	8:30 AM 5:15 PM	Men's Group 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*