

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

May 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

MAY THEME: *What Does it Mean to be a People of Story?*

May 2 **The Truth About Stories**
Jo Waters, with Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Beth Karow,
Worship Associate

Thomas King writes that “the truth about stories is that that’s all we are.” We open our rich month of focus on “story” with UUCM member Jo Waters sharing a piece of her own journey. “Unbroken,” she titles it. Come, let Jo’s thoughtful and courageous telling inspire your reflection on your own stories, and maybe inspire you to tell a piece of your own tale to someone.

May 9 **Our Mothers’ Hands**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Gail Johnson Vaughan, WA

Layla F. Saad introduced many people to the idea of “becoming a good ancestor” in her book, *Me and White Supremacy*. This Mother’s Day, we honor the legacies of our ancestors, our mothers through the ages, and listen for the invitation to become good ancestors ourselves.

May 16 **Written Words**
Members of UUCM’s Writers’ Group,
with Chuck Champlin, Worship Associate

A group of writers gathers regularly through UUCM to share their work with one another and to receive responses from their peers. It is a rhythm of sharing and listening that models the key spiritual practice of our tradition. Our stories this Sunday come from these writers, through their wonderful written words.

May 23 **Where Words Leave Off: Music from UUCM**
Jordan Thomas-Rose, with members and friends,
Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

Heinrich Heine wrote, “Where words leave off, music begins.” In this annual Music Service, some of UUCM’s many talented musicians share their gifts, led by UUCM’s dynamic Music Director Jordan Thomas-Rose. Come, receive the stories that stir within and beneath the universal language of music.

May 30 **Of War and Peace**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Wendy Wernigg,
Worship Associate

Memorial Day honors those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Here, in our tradition, we seek to honor such sacrifice genuinely and deeply without glorifying war or militarism. Recognizing that sacrifice is indeed “the pinnacle of patriotism,” as Bob Riley put it, we honor, too, the deep and ultimate sacrifices made by others in service to the nation we’ve aspired to become.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Item	Page
Upcoming Services.....	1
From Rev. Kevin Tarsa.....	2
Entry Point and Starting Point Classes.....	2
Board of Trustees	3
Stewardship.....	4
Pass the Plate	4
Online Giving and More.....	4
Caring Teams (Parish Care and Lay Pastoral)	5
Building and Grounds.....	6
Sunday Book Group.....	6
Justice News and Activities.....	7
Community Connections	8
UUCM Family Ministry	9-10
Full Community Education/Soul Matters	11
Monthly Calendar.....	12
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours	13



Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

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

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

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

What's your story?

All month long we'll be asking ourselves that question.

Our Soul Matters authors invite us not to give our storyline away, and instead to be active in the writing and directing of the stories that are our lives. It's always true, but ever so more powerfully true now, that we have a chance and are being called to bring deep attention to the story lines we are crafting for our future.

What is the story we will imagine and live now in our personal lives after the topsy-turvy, extraordinary year we've navigated? What is the story that we will envision and live for this gathered community shaped by an election, a pandemic, ongoing racial reckoning, and online existence? What is the story we are forming and working toward for our wider community, our county, our nation?

During our five services this month we'll move from Jo Waters' personal sharing of her experience, to remembrances of the legacies we've inherited from our mothers, and their mothers, and their mothers. On the third Sunday, we'll listen to stories about important moments in the lives of members of UUCM's writers' group; next we'll enjoy the music service with both storied songs and wordless melodies, and finish our month of stories with a Memorial Day reflection within the complex layers that come with sacrifice for the sake of one's country.

Story is the theme, really, all year round and every year. What stories are we living? What stories shall we live together?

These are truly unwritten chapters before us, with the possibility of sharp new turns in the story lines.

I know that many of you are feeling the strong pull to be together onsite or in person. Small groups of up to 10, outside, masked and distanced are now sanctioned by the congregation. We'll be getting a few more worship leaders in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings this month. We're looking for outdoor service possibilities this summer. We're preparing to be able to continue to stream services, even when people are able to gather in the building.

I encourage you to bring your storytelling self to this time, to your personal reflection, and to your hopes for UUCM. It's a new world, and new stories are possible. We'll be writing them together.

with care,

- Rev. Kevin



Want to Learn More and to Get Connected?

LEARN ABOUT UUCM AND OUR
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST TRADITION
BY EXPERIENCING THEM!

If you've been attending services and are curious to find out more, join Rev. Kevin, other newer folks, and some existing members for meaningful and fun connection as well as information.

Come first for **"Entry Point,"** a single, introductory session to be held on Tuesday evening, May 4, at 6:00. All are welcome! If that session piques your interest, continue with **Starting Point**, five rich sessions of connection and learning on Tuesday evenings through June 8.

Starting Point presents Unitarian Universalism and membership as ongoing journeys, and rather than simply talking about Unitarian Universalism, seeks to give participants an experience of it. (This part of the series asks for a commitment to attend all five sessions.)

To learn more and to sign up for **Entry Point**, contact membership@uugrassvalley.org.



*Jim Perkins, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

Board of Trustees

Greetings fellow UU's!

It's a beautiful spring, with the flowers blooming and the trees leafing and the birds singing. The weather is spectacular. And now things are opening up a bit at UUCM so that we can begin to appreciate this beautiful season by having small group meetings outside! A special thank you to the Pandemic, Health and Safety Committee for their monumental work in recommending safety practices for the congregation during the pandemic. We will be hearing more from them as time progresses.

Our annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 23. At the meeting we will vote on the budget for the next fiscal year as well as Board members and officers. Progress on the budget is moving along and the slate of Board officers has been finalized. You will be receiving more information on the meeting in the next couple of weeks.

The annual UA General Assembly will be held virtually from June 23 to 27. Pam Kisor, Janet Dustan and I will be the official UUCM delegates. Other members are encouraged to register and attend. These are always top-flight meetings. Registration fee is \$200.

We had an interesting discussion at the April Board meeting. Some UUCM members drafted a letter to be sent to the state Assembly Health Committee expressing UUCM's support for AB1400, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act. The letter was approved by the Justice Team and sent to the Board for our approval. This brought to the fore the fact that we have no policy for the Board to speak for the church as a whole on political matters. After some good discussion, the consensus seemed to be that we could if the Board had sufficient time to study the issue and the congregation was aware that this was happening.

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, May 19, 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.*

Unfortunately, neither of these conditions was true for the AB1400 letter, so the Board declined to send it. But in the future if members have issues they want addressed, they should be taken first to the Justice Team with enough time for full consideration.

Enjoy spring and be well,

—Jim

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.



Stewardship

Maryann Currington,
Chair, Stewardship Team

Life Called... and YOU Answered!

A huge thank you to all who pledged! The 2021-2022 Pledge Campaign is winding down and we on the Stewardship Team are feeling the satisfaction of serving our beloved Community in a meaningful and tangible way. We're also feeling so much gratitude and respect for our members and friends. So many sent in their generous pledges promptly and many did increase their pledge by 10%. The amounts are now in the hands of our Finance Committee who is conscientiously putting our 2021-2022 budget together.

We'd like to thank our team of Visiting Stewards this year. They are the dedicated members who offered to connect to our congregation with phone calls. The feedback from their conversations is so meaningful. Many of our members have opinions of what they would like to see from UUCM in the near future: more online services, more support for our beloved minister and more support for our RE ministry.

We were unable to recruit enough Visiting Stewards this year to reach each member of our congregation and we apologize to those who did not receive a call. The personal conversations help develop the next pledge campaign. We learned that emphasis needs to be put on this part of a pledge campaign. It does make a difference. Consider joining us next year in this enjoyable, gratifying, and important experience. If you didn't receive a call this year and would appreciate a conversation, I would love to speak with you. Please call me at (530) 307-9663 or email me at murrington1944@gmail.com.

Please keep in mind that our 2020-2021 fiscal year ends this June 30th and your pledges need to be satisfied by that date. If you pay by check please indicate the pledge year, 2020-2021, so that it is credited correctly.

With love and respect,

Maryann Currington



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 March, [Animal Place](#) will receive \$937.75! Thank you, everyone!

We are currently completing April collections for [Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release](#).

In May, our partner is [Nevada County Citizens for Choice](#), which provides compassionate, confidential, non-judgmental reproductive health care services for women, men and teens through "The Clinic!" in Grass Valley.



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 montly "bill" and then relax...your bank will automatically send a check out on the date(s) you specify.
- You can give through [UUCM's Online Giving](#) page. (Choose Pass-the-Plate, General Donation, or Pledge.)
- You can mail in a check for your current pledge or plate offering to UUCM, 246 South Church St, Grass Valley, CA 95945. (Please designate in the memo line whether your check is for your pledge, including the pledge year, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- You can give through PayPal at: paypal.me/uucm (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



Lay Pastoral Caring Team

Are you feeling a little freer? A little more relaxed? Ready to venture out a little more? Are you experiencing life getting a little closer to normal? (Whatever that new normal may be.) Are you feeling hope? I certainly am. We have held strong as a faith community over this past 15 months, and we continue to find creative ways to stay connected through it all. Thank you.

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.

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 May 28. 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=SG1tWDBndDVUUHRaNDk1Rmo3WWptZz09>

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

Unitarian Universalism is committed to the idea of love as a bedrock for creating a more compassionate, sustainable, and just society. Our yellow tee-shirts proclaim to the world that we are ***Standing on the Side of Love*** (and have led some to call us the ***Love Church***). How we show our love is called caring.

Even the most fortunate among us struggles at times. When others know or notice this, reaching out to offer support and companionship - reaching out to offer care - is a natural response. It is this kind of caring that we make concrete in our congregation through the Caring Team (offering practical support like meals and rides, etc) and now also through our Lay Pastoral Care Team, whose members offer a listening ear and companionship presence through difficult times. In the process of offering and receiving such care, we weave community.

UUCM's Lay Pastoral Care Team is made up of members Tom Wernigg, Corrie Silva, George Dunstan, Carol Richey, and Martha Turner. Under close guidance from Reverend Kevin, our mission is to reach out to community members in need of extended support, and to offer that caring support on behalf of UUCM. We have been learning and building our skill through a course titled "The Art of Spiritual Care" offered by the UU Leadership Institute, and processing our learning together in our monthly Team meetings.

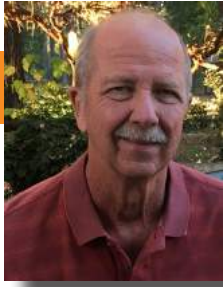
Additionally, the Lay Pastoral Care Team is envisioning and planning a late summer UUCM event to honor the many griefs and losses from the time of the pandemic. As realities allow, our intention is to hold an outdoor event in which UUCM members can ritualistically both honor their losses and celebrate with joy the ways we are able to return to more shared, physical gatherings.

If you are interested in helping to plan such an event, or if you or someone you know might benefit from some intentional, caring companionship, please contact Tom Wernigg at TomWernigg@gmail.com or Rev. Kevin at minister@uugrassvalley.org.

- TOM

-Gwen





B & G Team

Wally Holtan
Chair, Building & Grounds Team

Hi, Everyone.

I hope you are all doing well. With the Board having decided to allow groups of 10 people or less to interact together outside (as long as they are 6 feet apart and masked), we should be able to start having some outdoor work days in the near future.

The big news for the month is that the last part of the roof has been replaced. That means the whole project is finished and that we will have a watertight building.

I want to acknowledge the yard fairies who have been tending the UUCM outdoors. Wally has the lawn and front entrance mowed and blown. Rene Wiley and Christy Sherr weeded the front and side yards by the Methodist Church. And, Scottie Hart cleaned up the area by the gate entrance to the back patio. It looks beautiful and BIG thanks go out to you all.

We essentially have well over half of the area weeded. The remaining work includes the back yard and the area up by the garages on Walsh Street. If anyone is interested in volunteering, let me know. We also need to clean up the garages. I hope to address that project in the near future. As always, there is still more to do, but it is so nice to see this beloved home to UUCM cared for and loved. Thank you! See you on Zoom or hopefully in real life before next month.

-Wally



Our UUCM roof is finally completely replaced!
And the "yard fairies" have been busy weeding... drive by and enjoy the poppies!

UUCM Book Group

UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1:00 PM

Due to limited availability of some of our titles, we have changed our book group schedule. Here is the revised list:

May 2 - *On the Move* by Oliver Sacks

On the Move is the story of a brilliantly unconventional physician and writer, a man who has illuminated the many ways that the brain makes us human.

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 only 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 if you have questions or wish to be added to the email list.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING FOR SUNDAY BOOK GROUP:

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

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

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

Justice News and Activities

Justice News

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 13, 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.

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



Community Connections – Online Activities

Staying Connected through Zoom

Though the building is closed, UUCM is open.

In order to care for each other and the community, UUCM's building is essentially closed, and all meetings and services are happening online or via phone. Caring people are thoughtfully contacting members who might not have email or internet connections.

As long as we are in this virus-slowness mode, there are several ongoing weekly opportunities for UUCM Members and Friends to connect via Zoom or phone in addition to other circles and meetings you may be participating in.

WEEKLY @ UUCM

Watch your email for links and phone numbers. If you need links, please contact uucmOnline@uugrassvalley.org

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CHECK-IN - 4 PM

An open, end-of-the-week, TGIF conversation and sharing for members and friends, processing the week and getting ready for the weekend, with encouragement to tune up our personal spiritual practices.

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:30 AM

(Kids' RE now meets Wednesday at 5:15 PM)



SUNDAY DROP-IN SUPPORT CIRCLE - NOON

Confidential Peer support. The circle's mission is to provide a place for UUCM folks to drop in (now via Zoom) to give and get a little extra support. Our meetings usually last for 45 to 50 minutes, and the format is a circle where we take turns

(usually about 3 minutes) to share what is present for us. Sharing is confidential. If there is time remaining we do extra sharing in a popcorn fashion. (Advice should be given only when requested or with permission.) We are a sharing and support circle rather than a therapy session.

Please join in as it will serve your spirit, knowing that your presence will be a gift to others.

UUCM Groups Meet via Zoom

There are many groups that meet regularly at UUCM which have moved their meetings to the Zoom app while the danger of exposure to COVID-19 continues. You may also call into Zoom by phone. Please contact the individual organizers if you are interested in joining!

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 11:00 AM

Here is the Zoom meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92259246223?pwd=ZG10YlpxSkRHcDkxGRSMWV1enVsdz09>



Our topic will be Freedom and Liberty, how do they now coexist? The choice of topic was prompted by a book review in "The Nation" of *Freedom: An Unruly History* by Annelien de Dijn. Here is a link to that review:

<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/annelien-de-dijn-freedom-history/>.

I hope to see you on May 5th.

To be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan: 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 to get on the list for 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 is Growing a Pumpkin Patch!

By Rene Wiley



Howdy! Our families are planting and tending a great pumpkin patch – in the Wiley's own back lot – to provide outdoor RE fun for kids of all ages. Safely masked and distanced, we will enjoy the warm months outdoors together and work toward a Fall harvest. There will be plenty of pumpkins for all to carve up for the UUCM Pumpkin Altar. We are asking for your donations to help make this possible. By May 14, we could use help with the following items:

- bags of compost
- pumpkin starts
- pumpkin seeds
- bales of hay
- garden sunflower seeds

Vision with Family Ministry!

If you believe that our program is important to the UUCM community and beyond, come retreat with us in June and help us shape what the next two to five years will bring. Thank you for supporting our efforts!

Family Ministry serves up lifespan faith formation programs and multi-gen events. We are a mix of activists, literary lovers, gardeners, visionaries, discovery nurturers, goat keepers, play makers, creatives, budget keepers, social connectors, singers, curiosity seekers, UU explorers, and mentors. Be at the heart and center of UUCM where it's possible to discover more love, more joy, and more connection.

Welcome to Chalice Home's Celebration of Story

By Katie Covey from Soul Matters

Welcome to Chalice Home for May and our exploration of the theme of Story. 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 family stories using a favorite photo. This will be a photo which prompts family members to remember a shared story of something they experienced together. For instance, it might be the time when you went on a special vacation together. Or the picture of the family lake spot where everyone swam with cousins and uncles. Or the picture of Grandpa telling his story from the porch swing as everyone listened intently. Or the time when you first got Spot, your first dog, and all gathered around her as a puppy. What fun it will be to find that photo together!

This worship will then invite everyone to share their different perspectives of the remembered story. It also provides a way for family members to tease out the important memories and consider the ways that more memories could be created.

In our second home worship, we explore the heart's favorite story. In our faith and in our families, we recognize the importance of story in healing and companioning us. We hold a story in our hearts and it arises when we feel brokenhearted and need healing, or when we feel lonely. In honor of this, we will add an object symbolic of these heart-healing stories. Will it be a copy of an illustration from the Velveteen Rabbit, a ring symbolizing the Lord of the Rings, or a starfish symbolizing

UUCM Family Ministry

the Starfish Story? Family members are invited to share their own "heart story." May this month remind you not only of the stories you love, but also the stories that love you back!



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

Children's Religious Exploration

Happy May! We have been meeting for over a year online and will be sorting out what comes next for us. We welcome the families to claim the Wileys' backyard for planting a Pumpkin Patch and a place to gather safely, following our congregation's new safety model in masked groups of no more than 10.

Online classes continue! This month we're exploring the many ways our UU faith invites us to explore being "A People of Story." We're doing that by looking at five ways that stories shape us and remind us who we are:

- ...As UU's
- ...As a Family
- ...As Anti-Racists
- ...As Living and Interconnected Beings
- ...As Courageous People

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.

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](#)



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

familyministry@uugrassvalley.org



What Does It Mean to be a People of Story?

*From the
Soul Matters Authors*

Stories don't just embellish our lives; they make and even dictate our lives. This might be the most important reminder of this month. Indeed, who of us hasn't felt controlled by a story? Stuck in a story? Hopeless about the way our story will end up? Simply put, our stories often write us as much as we write them.

For instance, the author Rachel Naomi Remen talks about how her family clings to the childhood story of her being "the clumsy one of the family." Ask all her friends and colleagues and they will describe her as graceful. They've never once seen her trip over her own feet or drop something, ever. And yet, somehow, when she goes to her parents' house or back to a family reunion, she spills coffee on at least one outfit, stubs more than one toe and trips on more steps than she can count. By trying so hard to escape her family's narrative about clumsy little Naomi, she inevitably slips into it anew. Talk about the power of story!

Or think about our current struggles with economic or racial justice. The unconscionable income gap is often described as "natural" or "the result of complex global dynamics over which we have little control." Similarly, the story of race in our country is too often told with an "entrenched" story arc or celebrated as "having come so far." The aim of all these cultural narratives is the same: to undermine action, and worse, to undermine our belief that action can change things.

So let's tell a new story! This is the message of our faith. We have a choice, it tells us. Our stories are not predetermined! Remember that old theological debate for which our UU forebearers gave their lives? All around them people were saying that God had predestined not just the big story of humanity, but our individual stories too. Supposedly, some of us were slotted for heaven and others for hell. And God had written the list in ink. Nothing any of us could do about it.

"Well," said our spiritual ancestors, "that's a bit harsh, don't you think?!" Forget this extreme fate-driven story, they said. Freedom has a much bigger role than we're giving it credit for. God is not so much the author of the story as she is the

magical muse that needles and nags us to put our own stamp on the narratives before us. Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage." Our spiritual ancestors might have offered a friendly amendment and said, "All the world is an improv show! Our job is to hop on the stage and make up the script as we go!"

So fate and freedom. This month is much more about the tension between these two than one might have thought, leaving us with questions like: Are you an actor conforming to the scripts handed to you? Or have you found your own way of becoming the director or screenwriter of your life? How are you struggling right now to regain control of your storyline? How are you and your friends working to regain control of the storyline of our community? Our country?

Or maybe taking back control is not your task at this time. Maybe your spiritual work is instead about finding a new storyline. Maybe retirement, divorce, illness or the empty-nest has closed the book on one story and is inviting you to leap into a whole new narrative. Does that leave you excited about what's to come? Scared? A bit of both?

Whatever it is. Wherever you are at. Don't give the storyline away. That's the message of our faith. And hopefully the gift of this month.



Soul Matters

Upcoming Soul Matters Themes

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

May:	Story
June:	Play

May 2021 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

MAY 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.

2	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Sunday Book Group
4	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
		6:00 PM	Entry Point
5	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Wednesday Men's Group
		11:00 AM	Humanism Discussion Group via Zoom
		4:00 PM	Worship Team Meeting
		5:15 PM	Kids Connection Hour
		7:00 PM	Choir
6	Thursday	8:00 AM	Thursday Men's Group
		8:00 AM	Walking Group/ Meet @ Houtmans'
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
7	Friday	10:00 AM	Executive Council Meetings
		4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
9	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
10	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
11	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Reading Group
		6:00 PM	Starting Point Series
12	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Wednesday Men's Group
		4:00 PM	Ministry Council Meeting
		5:15 PM	Kids Connection Hour
		7:00 PM	Choir
13	Thursday	8:00 AM	Thursday Men's Group
		8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

14	Friday	1:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
		4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
16	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
18	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		6:00 PM	Starting Point Series
19	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Wednesday Men's Group
		3:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
		5:15 PM	Kids Connection Hour
		7:00 PM	Choir
20	Thursday	8:00 AM	Thursday Men's Group
		8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		5:00 PM	Social Justice Meeting
21	Friday	4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
23	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Second Congregational Bus. Meeting
25	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Task Force
		6:00 PM	Starting Point Series
26	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Wednesday Men's Group
		5:15 PM	Kids Connection Hour
		7:00 PM	Choir
27	Thursday	8:00 AM	Thursday Men's Group
		8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
28	Friday	10:00 AM	Pet Loss Support Group
		4:00 PM	Friday Afternoon Check In
30	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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

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

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

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

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

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

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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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