

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

August 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

...will return in the Fall. Check out our Summer FUUn Activities!

SUMMER 2021 THEME: Voices Near and Far

August 1 FAR: Gentle Words, Kindly Spoken
Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Beth Karow, WA

Actions may speak louder than words, but if we don't tend to the words we speak and how we speak them, we can do great harm. This Sunday Rev. Meg Barnhouse, the wise, witty, and musical senior minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, Texas, draws upon the Buddhist concept of "right speech" and how to adapt that in a practical way as we begin to return to face to face meetings between people, and from zoom meetings to larger groups.

August 8 NEAR: What Does it Mean to be Connected?
Rev. Karen Packard, Gail Johnson Vaughan, WA

Join us again for an in-person outside service at Condon Park where Rev. Karyn Packard leads us to consider: As we look at moving ahead from our COVID isolation, what is required to effectively reconnect: spiritually, physically and as a dynamic community?

August 15 FAR - Making Powerful Trouble
Rev. Leela Sinha, with Chuck Champlin, WA

Rev. Sinha is a lifelong UU and an entrepreneurial community minister who is continually willing to speak the truth in love. Rev. Leela resides in the Bay Area and is founder of the Intensives Institute, which supports people with big personalities in embracing and using their power for good through leadership development, coaching, and consulting. The Institute and its work are an outgrowth of Rev. Leela's book, You're Not Too Much: Intensive Lives in an Expansive World.

August 22 NEAR: This Old House
Gail Johnson Vaughan, Allison Rivers Samson, WA

How can we make sense of the extreme divide over racial justice in our country? In this service our own Gail Johnson Vaughan will give us two keys to unlock the mystery and some suggestions for actions we can all take to remedy the fallout from the origins of our discontent.

August 29 Hysterical Women
Wendy Wernigg, Worship Leader

With the help of the UU Hysterical Society this service will bring you funny stories of lions and cross-cultural misunderstandings. But it's also a service about bravery and Unitarianism overseas—telling the story of Rev. Fulgence Ndadigimana's imprisonment for his work as a UU Minister, how UUs around the world came together to get him released, and the not-for-profit he founded afterwards. Above all, it's a story of friendship, and how building relationships with people very different from us enriches us and allows us to make a difference in the world.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Kevin now has Zoom office hours from 1:30 to 2:00 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

<https://zoom.us/j/91942233874?pwd=UlhBaXpFQnNCVklzSlpDQWNXeGhPQT09>

Meeting ID: 919 4223 3874
Passcode: 300295

Or by phone: Dial by your location
+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
(Same meeting ID and passcode as above)

Please contact Rev. Kevin or our Office Administrator to schedule appointments for other times.

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

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water...

I write as the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus rises to the surface in our area. We knew that this was likely to be a rollercoaster ride with the virus, and still, the stomach flop that comes with each drop is no less disturbing.

It looks like we are going to have multiple chances to practice remaining present to the moment, present to reality outside our desires and our preconceived expectations. In fact, if we do indeed take a rollercoaster's path, we'll have a series of chances to "get it," whatever our needed "getting" entails.

I recognize the gift in this, in the required repetition, in the forced chances to try again and to keep learning. It's a more productive learning path than is having a single session or even a linear series of classes. We get to keep bringing what we've learned so far to the new moment, and to move in even more deeply.

It makes it more difficult to ignore the messages we've been hearing in our heart of hearts as we've tried to tiptoe back into more familiar ways of being.

Sigh.

Delta and any future cousins may pace our internal re-entry as much as they shape our external re-entry.

Those of us over a certain age will recognize the opening line above from the series of movies that Steven Spielberg launched with *Jaws*, released 46 years ago. (I know, that doesn't seem possible.)

I was 12 when *Jaws* came out, and it was not a movie my parents would have allowed me to see. I think I read Peter Benchley's novel before I finally saw the movie. By the time I was in college, I was watching fish and sharks swim out over people's heads in the auditorium as bespectacled students screamed and/or laughed their way through *Jaws 3-D*.



I remember reading about the significant effect *Jaws* had on ocean beach activity in the United States in those years. It's no accident that one of my midwestern hooded sweatshirts reads, "Lake Michigan - unsalted and shark free." As someone who goes by "aszetey" noted in a University of Melbourne publication, *Jaws* "shaped a generation of people to fear... [reaching] into a fear that everyone didn't know they had." To this day *Jaws* colors this Lake Michigan boy's experience of swimming in the ocean (though bees, wasps, dogs, snakes, and farmed animals are responsible for far more deaths each year in the USA than sharks.)

As to what our experience of the COVID-19 virus will surface in us, and how it will shape us, I say once again and first of all, let it shape us. But not solely via fear. Let any cycling in and out of COVID restrictions teach us to get more real, to be more honest, to perceive more clearly, to envision more boldly, to treasure each other more deeply, to seek justice more persistently, and to listen to our innermost and truest voices more courageously.

with care,

- Rev. Kevin

Board of Trustees



*Pam Kisor, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

I am writing this on the day after an exhilarating three day board retreat that has left me smiling, hopeful, and a bit exhausted! All in all a very successful three days. Retreat is an interesting word – the dictionary defines it as: “withdrawing to a secluded, quiet place [to reflect or recover]”, or “pulling back or withdrawing [from one’s enemies or challenges]”. I would say we did a bit of both.

We took the opportunity to “withdraw to a quiet place to recover” and to get to know each other – *in person*. Many of us met for the very first time just two weeks ago and learning about each other, discovering our strengths and weaknesses and our dynamics as a working group was an essential aspect of our retreat. And what a joy it was to get to know this group of hard working, talented and very fun individuals! After 16 months of relative isolation we had a need to let our laughter out – and let it out we did! If laughter is indeed the best medicine we took full advantage of the opportunity to share this healing balm together.

We also took the opportunity to “pull back from the challenges” of a year of Zoom, reflect on our work this past year and make plans for what we hope to accomplish in the coming year. We reviewed the work of the board and how best to work together to support the mission of UUCM. We developed our goals for the year and familiarized ourselves with the nuts and bolts of the organization.



We spent each day in a different home which gave us a feeling of getting away without actually going away. We allowed time to socialize, build trust and practice using the tools needed for board work. We also ate delicious food, drank a bit of wine and played at activities that helped us get to know each other better. We even had a scavenger hunt! Who said Board work has to be

boring? If our laughter, respect and care for each other is any indication, I would say that this will be a very good year for all of your hard working board members.

Namaste,

Pam

UUCM BOARD GOALS FOR THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR:

1. Staff and Revitalize Committees

1. Improve Board support and oversight
2. Foster committee collaboration
3. Add volunteers to:
Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Endowment Committee, Nominating Committee, Facilities Exploration Committee, Governance Committee, Health and Safety Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Committee on Shared Ministry

2. Develop 3 to 5 year Strategic Plan

(Theme: Health and Wholeness into the Future)

Including at a minimum:

1. Facilities planning
2. Mid-size church challenges/opportunities
3. Governance adaptations (relative to size/growth)
4. Work toward additional necessary paid staffing
5. Financial projections

3. Plan for Minister’s Sabbatical

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022

Pam Kisor	<i>President</i>
Gail Schultz	<i>Vice-President</i>
Bob Packard	<i>Treasurer</i>
Rene Wiley	<i>Secretary</i>

Members at Large:

Janet Dunstan & Sharon Walters

UUCM Committees:

Finance • Governance • Endowment
Nominating • Personnel • Health and Safety

Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 10:30 AM on the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are currently being held in the UUCM sanctuary as well as on Zoom. An email announcing the meeting and a Zoom link will be sent to the community each month, one week prior to the meeting

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.



Caring Team

Gwen Eymann
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team



B & G Team

Wally Holtan
Chair, Building & Grounds Team

August is upon us and it's coming up on the halfway mark of summer. For the next few months, we will continue to be in fire season, as if a drought and Covid-19 aren't enough. Are you prepared if a fire should occur and an emergency evacuation is called? Cal-Fire has information and an emergency guide for Wildfire Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Their website is: ReadyNevadaCounty.org

And, though many restrictions have been lifted for the pandemic, Covid-19 is still lurking and it is still a risk. Please be careful and remember, if you are showing any signs of illness, STAY HOME. If you have to be out, consider wearing a mask. There are many vulnerable people in our UUCM community as well as our greater community.

As our lives open up and Covid restrictions are lifted, there is more that the Parish Care Team can offer in terms of direct contact. We have volunteers who are happy to reach out with phone calls, to send cards, to shop or run essential errands. If you or someone you know have need for any of these services, please let us know how we can be of help.

The Animal Ministry has closed its monthly UUCM Pet Loss Support Group, but the UUA has a national Pet Loss and Support Group. If you are hurting and needing support for the loss or illness of a pet, this group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM Pacific Time. The zoom link to join the meeting is: tinyurl.com/UUAMChaplain

-Gwen

PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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

PLEASE CONTACT:

Caring@uugrassvalley.org
or gweneymann@gmail.com



We have had two great work days since I last wrote about Building and Grounds. Summer has arrived with our work days mostly devoted to cleaning up our outside grounds after months of inactivity due to Covid. On both days we had new workers who volunteered to help us. I want to thank Phil Horning, Ruth Edwards, Gary Kisor and Lisa Haden for volunteering for the first time to help. Also, a big thank you to our regular workers, some of whom have been volunteering for years.

Projects we finished were the removal of the rest of our spring growth, the sealing of some developing cracks in the stucco walls of the building, the removal of cobwebs over the Walsh Street door, and the painting of our front entrance, in preparation for opening the building to indoor services. This month we could also have someone working inside the building. We were able to clean the admin office and Rev Kevin's office, neither of which had been cleaned by us for months. Rev. Kevin's bathroom ceiling and wall repair are in progress now that the new roof has repaired the leaks. The last bathroom downstairs has also been painted. There will be a lot of indoor work that needs to be done as reopening is gradually getting closer.

I must say that having these workdays with people working together toward accomplishing specific goals feels so rewarding to me. I want to thank everyone again for volunteering and hope that as the year moves forward, our work days will continue to see new people we can enjoy getting to know.

-Wally



Justice News and Activities

Justice News

By Keith Johnson, Co-Chair, Justice Team

Post-Covid justice is alive and well at UUCM. On July 13 the Justice team met at the home of Connie Wright to assess where we have been and where we want to go. Members present were Keith Johnson, Bob Miller, Steve Temple, Connie Wright, Carol Hyndman, Carol Kuczora, Jim Bair, Joyce Banzhaf, and Anita Wald-Tuttle. Rev Kevin was also present.

The team sought answers to a number of questions, such as "What went well?", "What do we need more of?", "What would success look like?", and "What do we need to do now?" There were lots of answers. However, a recurring theme was the need to engage the congregation through our task forces and partnerships in order to offer a wide variety of justice opportunities that will appeal to all.



Joyce Banzhaf, Keith Johnson, Carmen Riley, Bernell Scott, and Connie Wright at a Justice Team meeting. Photo by Bob Miller.

Specific ideas that were explored included creation of new task forces, operation of a justice table at church, justice trips for youth, justice-focused art at church, recognition of UUCM justice warriors, and much more. Stay tuned for further action ideas. And if you have suggestions for justice at UUCM, please let me or any other member of the justice team know your thoughts.

See you in church. Not zoom church – but real church!

What's Up with our Partners?

By Keith Johnson, Co-Chair, Justice Team

The Justice team is pleased to announce a **new volunteer opportunity**. Team member Steve Temple has been in conversation with Phil Alonso, Executive Director of Inter-faith Food Ministry about a UUCM Work Day at IFM.

Plans for this project are still tentative, but IFM would greatly appreciate having 6 to 12 UUCM volunteers to do routine maintenance and cleaning and/or sorting and packing for the next day's delivery. Days and times for the work day have not been set yet, but IFM would like us there on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM or Saturdays or Sundays. We may need to initially limit our involvement to one day per month as we assess the long-term viability of this project.

Want to be involved? Please let me know so together we can work out the details. kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com

Justice Warrior of the Month: Anita Wald-Tuttle

By Connie Wright, Justice Team Member

The Justice team is proud to announce that founding UUCM member Anita Wald-Tuttle has been selected as our "Justice Warrior" for the month of August. Congratulations, Anita!

Caregiving. Looking back over the years, Anita uses this one word to summarize her work for social justice issues. All her efforts have centered on caregiving which inevitably led her to confront economic inequality and environmental degradation.

Standing out among the many organizations she has worked for are Move to Amend, (overturning Citizens United) Health Care for All, Citizens Climate Lobby, Inter-Faith Food Ministry, and Hospitality House.

Anita names her primary accomplishment, however, as her work to establish a new UU church here in Grass Valley: UUCM! The original meetings were actually held in her home.

Having our church in our own community allows us to focus our Justice efforts on issues in Grass Valley and Nevada City such as stopping the reopening of the old Idaho-Maryland mine – which currently is Anita's most urgent cause, along with the effects of climate change.

Again, everything focuses on caregiving.

Thank you, Anita, for all you have done for UUCM, our local community, and the world.



94-years young, Anita Wald-Tuttle was Rhythms Fitness' "Elite Queen" at the 4th of July Parade in Grass Valley.

Justice Team – Task Force News

Task Force Updates

By Bob Miller, Co-Chair, Justice Team

UUCM Justice has three task forces: Nisenan, Challenging White Privilege and Carbon Dividend. This month we report on a possible new task force, as well as an update on the Carbon Dividend Task Force.

NEW IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE TASK FORCE?

How do you feel about the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland mine in Grass Valley? As you probably know, Rise Gold Corporation is proposing a 119-acre gold mine on Brunswick Road. Critics point to a number of environmental hazards associated with this project, including water pollution, air pollution, traffic congestion, and noise. The Environmental Impact Report for the mine will be published soon with the final decision for or against the mine to be made by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors.

Are you interested in forming a UUCM task force opposing the mine? Team members Jim Bair, Steve Temple, and Anita Wald-Tuttle are considering such a task force that must ultimately be approved by the congregation. The task force shall include at least five UUCM members who are willing to actively work on the task force and an additional five members who support the creation of the task force.

Are you passionately opposed to the mine? Do you want to be part of a UUCM task force to try and block the mine? If so, here is your chance. Please contact Jim Bair at aristotle2001@gmail.com to convey your interest.

CARBON DIVIDEND TASK FORCE

This task force works closely with the CA Nevada County Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby. Before Covid, the task force was working on grassroots lobbying. We did this by "tabling" at Farmers' Markets and similar events encouraging citizens to complete constituent letters in support of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. Obviously, we stopped during the pandemic. We then initiated the "Yard Sign" campaign - a safe way of increasing awareness in Grass Valley and Nevada County. We have distributed over 40 signs. Have you seen one, or two? Get yours! Contact: bob@sierramiller.com

Meanwhile the **GIANT SHOE** (illustrating the amount of carbon dioxide created by burning one gallon of gasoline) languished in a garage at UUCM. As California opened up, the shoe team sprang into action! They completed the shoe, acquired and refurbished a trailer, and loaded it with the shoe.



Our giant shoe has now attended five Grass Valley Thursday Markets and took second place in the Grass Valley July 4th parade.

Thanks to the shoemakers: Ginny and Katerina, Dennis and Dave for the trailer refurbishment, and the drivers and those attending the shoe on hot evenings on Main Street.



Claire's beet-gleaning crew for Sierra Harvest

SIERRA HARVEST AND INTERFAITH FOOD MINISTRY

Sierra Harvest's mission is "transforming lives and strengthening community through fresh, local, seasonal food." They have found a way to fulfill their mission and support the Interfaith Food Ministry: *GLEANING*.

Claire is a new "Gleaning Leader" for Sierra Harvest. She was trained a couple weeks ago and her first "Lead" was on a Saturday in July. Here's her take on the experience:

"It was at a farm (organic market garden) that is also new to the gleaning program. This was their first offering. On the phone the farmer told me he had 300 to 400 pounds of beets that had "gotten away from him" (that is, they were bigger than the optimum market offering size.) We could come and take them away and deliver them to Interfaith Food Ministry's Pantry for distribution.

Promptly at 8:00 AM our team arrived at the farm, determined to beat the heat of a record setting day. There were six of us, with a range of farm/garden experience – but all sharing enthusiasm for tackling the job and saving wholesome food from being wasted. We were also 'helped' by two babies being carried in kangaroo slings by their moms.

The project was to pull up the beets out of the soil, cut off the tops, transport back to the farm processing shed, wash them in a largescale washing barrel, air dry them, pack into "banana boxes," load into two of our cars, transport them back to the IFM warehouse, weigh them – 21 boxes plus two large bags of green tops – move them into the cold storage unit and stack them on pallets ready for distribution on Monday morning. The weigh-in revealed that there had been significant growth in the few days since the initial phone call, because the total came to 942 pounds of beet roots!!! That's a LOT of beets!!!

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Continued...

So how did this project feel for me? On the day itself, I met eight great people – the farmer, five adult volunteers, plus two ‘future’ gardeners – all folks that I would never have met in any other situation. I had lots of laughs, and a feeling of good-natured camaraderie while working together. I got to visit an amazing sustainable organic farm, breathing in fresh outdoor air and the heady scent of lush growing things. I also acquired a bunch tired muscles – actually, make that tired *EVERYTHING!* The upside of that was a glorious feeling of relaxation with a blanket and a book for the rest of the day.

And on the next day? The muscles felt better than I was expecting. I found myself checking into the website before the morning was over, to see if there were more gleanings in the works that I could sign up for. For Sierra Harvest and Interfaith Food Ministry this is an ongoing project. There will be many more farms, gardens and orchards with wholesome produce that can be harvested and shared with people that need it.

Would you like to get involved?

Visit the [Sierra Harvest website](#) or talk to me, Claire Miller, at: truckeeclaire@yahoo.com

Pass the Plate

Support of our UUCM justice partners through the Sunday Pass-the-Plate offering has been wonderful this past year. Keep watching The Union for photos of our check handoffs. Our hope is that such visibility helps the organizations with which we partner, as well as communicates UUCM and UU values

Thanks to generous UUCM members and friends, [Sierra Streams Institute](#) will receive \$550.75! Thank you, everyone, for your steady generosity!

We are currently completing May collections for [Interfaith Food Ministry](#), which works tirelessly and creatively to feed the hungry and reduce food insecurity in Nevada County. UUCM is a member congregation of Interfaith Food Ministry.



Our August partner is [Community Beyond Violence](#), whose mission is to offer resources for building healthy relationships and to work with community partners to provide services for healing the effects of interpersonal violence. Their vision is a community unified in peace and justice for the safety and well-being of every individual.

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

Sunday Book Group



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 so you get them in time!

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 3 - *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 7 - *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 and now, also in person. 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

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

Community Connections – Online Activities

Staying Connected through Zoom

UUCM is partly open, but most meetings are still available via Zoom.

The Board has eased restrictions to allow outside gatherings of up to 20 people and gatherings within the Sanctuary of up to 10 people, social-distanced.

WEEKLY @ UUCM

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

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:30 AM



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 AND In-Person

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. In addition, a few groups are opening up to in-person meetings, observing social-distancing and wearing masks if some in the group are uncomfortable without. Please contact the individual organizers if you are interested in joining!

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE - VIA ZOOM

First Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM

Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 11:00 AM



The UUCM Humanist Discussion group will be meeting in person at UUCM in the Sanctuary. There is currently a limit of 10 people at a time in the Sanctuary so please let me know if you are planning to attend. You can reach me at Humanism@uugrassvalley.org. We plan to have a Zoom session open to include those who are not able to attend in person or if we have more than the allowable limit.

For August we will have a brief discussion on the difference between Humanism and Atheism and then a more in-depth discussion about what we do with the awareness we have gained through our readings and news coverage about institutional racism and inequity. How do we put our new information to good use to address these issues?

I look forward to seeing you either in person or via Zoom on August 4th. 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, 7:30 AM. Thursdays: meet at 418 Chapel St, GV at 7:30 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.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE – 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. We have been doing Zoom meetings for the last year and a half and are talking about having an outdoor in-person meeting, but the hot weather and smoky conditions have discouraged this move. Watch for updates through our group email list.

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... and you can help plan our first in-person (outdoor) gathering in 18 months!

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 Jo Waters if you'd like to find out more! familyministry@uugrassvalley.org

Easy Breezy Summer of FUUn:

By Jo Waters, UUCM

Your Family Ministry Team has planned an exciting summer of fun activities for ALL ages including monthly Zoom cooking classes and Hikes for All Ages.

To register for any event, contact Jo Waters at: jowaters@hotmail.com

Once you register for an activity, you will be sent the details for the activity, and each family unit will receive a Summer Scrapbook after their initial registration. Then, you'll get a new Scrapbook Page after each event you attend. Be sure to watch for more details and August offerings through UUCM general emails and the eChalice.

Three Sisters' PUUmpkin Patch

By Rene Wiley

Spend time relaxing with friends at the Three Sisters' PUUmpkin Patch, a children's RE class garden project that is growing in spirit with the traditional planting of squash, corn, and beans.

The space is held in the Wiley family's back garden with a chance to visit and engage in multi-generational connection. We value our elders, we value the children, we value their families.

Come share and grow with us!

Contact Renemarie@gmail.com to secure a spot and get directions.

As our plants grow and mature, we look forward to celebrating our harvest with a Three Sisters Potluck sometime in the fall. The date is not yet decided but will be announced through the eChalice and UU general emails.

UPCOMING PUUMPKIN PATCH DATES:



We've been busy as bees watching the pumpkin patch grow into a proper jungle. Kudos to Aiden McCarthy for watering it over this most recent weekend!

At our last patch, we had some special "new to UU" friends visiting, along with Scottie Hart, Carmen Riley, and Martha Turner. We all shared in discussion with Lindsay and the kids about putting our big values first. The kids began to paint some heavy rocks to symbolize things important to them.

Come on out to the next pumpkin patch gatherings:

Wednesday, August 4th at 6:30 PM

Wednesday, August 25th at 6:30 PM



UUCM KIDS CONNECTION - RE PROGRAM ON SUMMER BREAK

Lindsay and Walt will start up **59Kids Connection** group again next fall with excitement and options for connection! Until then, please enjoy the many other summer activities we have planned. Contact familyministry@uugrassvalley.org with any questions.

NEW EMERGING ADULT TEAM!



Are you a UU Young Adult (18-35ish)? If so, we invite you to join us, The UU Young Adult Revival Network (YARN), for a worship service centered and designed by and for young adults.

As UU young adults, our spiritual needs are often different and not met in our everyday lives or by our congregations. This space will focus on our needs as we Circle Round YA Community for worship.

Sign up for the newsletter at yarn.org.



Voices From Near and Far

The Soul Matters themes we use each month from September through June give us lenses through which to examine the current issues in our lives. UUCM subscribes to resources for Sunday Services, materials for our Soul Matters Circles (small groups of 6-8 who meet monthly for thoughtful reflection and connection), and ideas and resources for learning, growing and playing for use with our youngest members.

During the summer each year, the UUCM worship team chooses its own summer theme. Two summers ago, we focused on the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. Last summer, our services lifted up the Sources from which Unitarian Universalism draws wisdom and guidance.

This summer, the UUCM services will unfold within the theme of "Voices Near and Far," alternating local voices with the voices of Unitarian Universalists outside of our area.

We had a wonderful in-person outdoor service on July 11 in the Condon Park - our first on-site gathering in almost exactly 16 months. It was a celebration of community above all, celebrating nearness in ways we have not been able to celebrate for a long time. We met at 9:00 AM to avoid the worst of the heat, and then had a recording of the service on Zoom at 11:00 AM.

Over the warm summer weeks to follow, we'll hear from:

- The Rev. Meg Barnhouse, the wise, witty, and musical senior minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, Texas, and the author of several books, including *Did I Say That Out Loud? Musings from a Questioning Soul*.
- Our own wise and wonderful Rev. Karyn Packard will talk about what it means to be connected – this will be our second outdoor in-person service at Condon Park at 9:00 AM on August 8.
- The Rev. Leela Rajani Sinha, a lifelong UU and now an entrepreneurial community minister, founder of the Intensives Institute and professional supporter of people with big personalities in embracing and using their power

for good.

- UUCM's own Gail Johnson Vaughan, drawing on her deep thoughtfulness and the power of the learnings from the book *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, gives us suggestions for how we can make sense of the extreme divide over racial justice in our country.
- Wendy Wernigg will fishish up the month leading a service which includes women of the UU Hysterical Society. (Yes, you read that correctly.)

Then we'll wrap up the summer with the return of Rev. Kevin's presence in the pulpit Labor Day weekend, before we kick off the new church/community year with another celebratory service in the park on Sept 12.

It looks to be a wonderful summer of services.

And to give you a preview, here are the Soul Matter Themes for next year:

These 2021-22 themes focus on our relationship with our times, on some of the central work and spiritual practices needed during this period of radical change, challenge, crisis and opportunity.

They will explore the challenges and adventure of...

September: Embracing Possibility

October: Cultivating Relationship

November: Holding History

December: Opening to Joy

January: Living with Intention

February: Widening the Circle

March: Renewing Faith

April: Awakening

May: Nurturing Beauty

June: Celebrating Blessings



Soul Matters

August 2021 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

AUGUST 2021

Please note: Most meetings and services are held by Zoom until further notice, but a few are opening up for in person opportunities: Watch for links and meeting numbers through your email from UUGeneral or the meeting hosts and updates on in person events.

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
1	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop In Support Circle
3	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
4	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		11:00 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		4:00 PM	Worship Team Meeting
		6:30 PM	UUCM PUUmpkin Patch
		7:00 PM	Choir
5	Thursday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
8	Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Service at Condon Park
		12:00 PM	Drop In Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Book Group
9	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
10	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Reading Group
11	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		4:00 PM	Ministry Council Meeting
		7:00 PM	Choir
12	Thursday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		2:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
15	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop In Support Circle

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
17	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
18	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		10:00 AM	Board of Trustees Meeting
		7:00 PM	Choir
19	Thursday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		5:00 PM	Social Justice Meeting
21	Saturday	8:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Party
22	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop In Support Circle
24	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Challenging White Privilege Task Force
25	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		6:30 PM	UUCM PUUmpkin Patch
		7:00 PM	Choir
26	Thursday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
29	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop In Support Circle
31	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine



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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