

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

September 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 unless noted otherwise.

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

See Page 8 for Kid-Centered Activities

SEPTEMBER THEME: *Embracing Possibility*

Worship Associates for the Month:

Gail Johnson Vaughan and Cheryl Morris

Sept. 5 **Labors of Love: Serving with Grace**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

On this Labor Day Weekend we celebrate the abundant and generous gift of members' and friends' time and talent. Drawing on Erik Walker Wikstrom's encouragements in Serving with Grace, we'll approach volunteering as a spiritual practice and an important form of sustaining community. We'll invite your thoughtful consideration of what kind of service, what gift of love you feel called to offer now and next.

Sept. 12 **Return Again: Water, Community, Spirit, You**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

9:00 AM in Condon Park – masks required.
11:00 AM rebroadcast via Zoom

Special Times, Special Place, Special Ritual! We launch our year and our September theme of "embracing possibility" with our annual water ceremony and an invitation to connect and reconnect, to "return to the home of your soul," as the song from the Jewish tradition suggests. This Sunday, we'll celebrate return, and over the course of the month, we'll travel together through the three-part spiritual process of finding what's lost, what remains, and what's possible.

Please bring a small container of water from your home or from someplace special to you. If you are attending the 9:00 AM service in the park, please bring your water with you to the service. If you are not able to join the service in the park, please bring your small container of water to UUCM before noon any day Tuesday through Friday, Sept. 7-10.

Sept 19 **Whatever Comes Next**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

There is often a significant gap between what we expect or wish for, and what actually exists. And, wow, the past two years have given us abundant opportunity to experience that! Wisdom traditions guide us away from using all our energy to lament and rail against the gap, and toward finding greater peacefulness by learning to be gently present to what is. After the journey of discovering what's lost, we realize that not all is lost, ever, and we gain ability to see what remains. Let's mind the gap mindfully.

Sept. 26 **Imagine My Surprise**
UUCM Members

Nineteen months into the restrictions of the pandemic has been like climbing to the top of a high mountain – a climb most of us would have thought impossible. Now here, we can see unexpected possibilities in every direction. Join us this week as members of our congregation share the surprising possibilities that have been revealed to them during this difficult journey as we conclude our month of exploring the theme of what it means to be a people who embrace possibility.

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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

I've attended numerous gatherings recently, inside and outside the congregation, in which the participants shared their feelings of lethargy – of sapped energy and depressed mood.

People shared stories of hovering at the edge, of holding it together, stories of deep weariness and of the difficulty of finding hope and an encouraging sense of the future. Smoke, ever-present threats of fire, masking and vaccination arguments, people suffering in Haiti and Afghanistan, being pulled back into more cautious public behavior to respect the dangers of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus...our spiritual and emotional resources are taxed and stretched thin, many of us, even as we recognize that most of us have it so much easier than others in the world.

At one recent meeting, after a vulnerably honest and real check-in to this effect, people shared how helpful it was to hear, directly from others, that they were not the only ones feeling lethargic and drained, how helpful it was to realize that they were not alone.

If that's you – lethargic, weary, stretched to your edges – know that you are not alone.

I count myself in that number, and we are in fine company.

I have much beauty and goodness in my life, AND it's been an emotionally demanding year. I've been seeking to put on my own oxygen mask this summer so that I can be helpfully present to you and to others. With all that we are navigating, this is slow going, not a rapid re-fill, but a trickle charge. Slow, but happening, little by little.

The experience of all of this is inviting me to both compassion and a reorientation.

These days invite me first to listen and feel for the emotional/spiritual place that others are right now, knowing that internal and external demands are requiring great amounts of energy. The experience invites me not to plow through in my usual or automatic ways, nor to ignore the unique stretchedness of this particular moment. It invites me to step back from the current seemingly urgent task on my "to do" list to ask myself, "Is this really what is needed right now?"

As I've sought to do summer planning for the coming congregation year I've found it challenging to get specific.

I've been gathering my long list of possible efforts, but it feels like the first need is to be real with each other, to be witnesses to each other's stretch and struggle and lethargy and joy and worry and ease...to connect, in whatever ways we can, honestly and vulnerably.

And then to ask, what most needs to happen right now?

The summer openings that allowed more face-to-face interaction almost let us escape genuine change, gave the illusion that we could "return" to familiar ways without really altering our expectations. But the Delta surge says, "Nope."

That's its gift, for all its discouraging discomfort or pain. It says, "Look again, deeper, more honestly." It asks, "What's real, though uncomfortable?" and "What most needs to happen now, no matter what we've always done or thought we would do? What might we need to let go of? What might need to happen differently?"

Too bad it doesn't hand us all the ready answers with the questions. Or, does it, if we listen openly enough?

While we are each invited into our own soul searching, some of the most important answers will come from asking and exploring the rising questions together, with others and as a community. Let's find ways to connect and re-connect to one another, and to bring our weary, opened, creative hearts, minds, and spirits to the moment at hand, and the world before us.

with care,

- Rev. Kevin

Board of Trustees



*Pam Kisor, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

As the fires, smoke, heat and COVID virus continue to wreak havoc on our lives, your board has grappled with the question of how we may best support our community in these uncertain times. I will admit to a general feeling of exhaustion and lethargy that is present in many of us. After so happily seeing each other face-to-face in early summer, we are now back to distancing, masks and careful consideration of what is - and is not - safe to do. We are adjusting to the knowledge that this ongoing stress may be the 'new normal' for some time to come and it is, at times, overwhelming

To quote Buddhist teacher Oren Jay Sofer;

*"When faced with [the difficult truth of change], the most liberating question is not, "How do I regain control?" because we never really had control in the first place. **The liberating question is: "How am I relating to this?"***

It is our response to the happenings in our lives that matter. We strengthen our center - our heart - in many ways, including strengthening our spiritual center, our interpersonal connections and our community relationships. So, how do we respond? How are we strengthening our relationships with each other, with our community and with ourselves? What can the board do to help us strengthen our center in the turmoil? In grappling with these questions the board has decided that it is important that we continue to find ways to meet together - in both small and large groups - in ways that are safe, flexible and will provide the social interaction our spirits need.

We are further encouraged by the result of the Vaccination Survey which revealed that over 92% of respondents are fully vaccinated. With this in mind, the board, in keeping with counsel from the Pandemic Health and Safety Committee, has decided to go ahead with the September 12th service in the park. We do this with the knowledge that unforeseen events (like unhealthy levels of smoke and heat, or extreme changes in COVID activity) might cause us to have to cancel again. We are choosing to be hopeful and plan for gathering - and will adjust as necessary. The gathering will be masked, with social distancing encouraged, signing-in required (in case COVID tracking is necessary), and will be available by ZOOM for those who are unable or uncomfortable attending. Going forward, the board will also be looking for ways to facilitate the phased-in return to onsite worship and to support small group gatherings — always with the option for in-person or zoom attendance.

Another important piece of work that the Board completed this month was to accept the 2020/21 annual report and year-

end financial statements. Treasurer, Bob Packard, along with Finance Committee members Gail Schulz and Carol Richey, did an excellent job in guiding UUCM's financial health this past year and in documenting the accomplishments for the year. I will be sending that report to all UUCM members and friends via email soon. Watch for it in your inbox. It is a tribute to all who have helped to build and strengthen our beloved community during this difficult year.

One last thought which has offered me solace in this turbulent time – as paraphrased from Oren Sofer:

If you imagine a boat in a storm, you'll realize that it doesn't stay perfectly level. It rocks and sways with the swells. It is kept upright by its keel. Keeping an even keel when the seas are rough doesn't mean we don't feel moved by the changes of life. It means that when the big waves come, our boat doesn't capsize. Maintaining perspective helps us roll with the waves and with each swell. It brings us back to a quiet knowing deep in our heart and helps us return to upright, to find our center again..

Going forward, we will strive to be like little boats with even keels – and work to form an island of boats – our keels supporting each other to stay on center.

Namaste,

Pam

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

If you wish to address the board, please give at least two days notice so the agenda timing can be adjusted.



Stewardship

Maryann Currington,
Chair, Stewardship Team

The Soul of Money: The Stewardship Team Studies New Ways to View Money

The word "money" has the power to conjure up many emotions. In her book, *The Soul of Money*, Lynn Twist urges us to view money as water that flows from hand to hand. We have the power to direct this flow and to control the power that we perceive money to have. Lynn feels that in our American Society, we experience money from a view of scarcity. We are told we can never have enough money and that we need more money to have a better life. Lynn uses many examples from other societies to argue that, in fact, we do have enough and that we can and should use the power of money to support our values.

Several of us on the Stewardship Team are taking a course, "Peace and Freedom with Money and Life" from The Soul of Money Institute. We plan to bring the wisdom from this course to our congregation with several workshops this fall.

As is the case for so many groups planning activities for the upcoming year, Stewardship's plans for fundraisers are in a holding pattern. We were so ready and so excited to get started with an "in person" get together this fall. It may not happen quite when we planned or quite like we planned, but we are a hopeful and resilient team and our love for UUCM will guide us.

You may contribute toward your 2021-2022 Pledge online or by check. If you pay by check, please indicate the percentage of the check amount that should be applied to your Pledge. If you need any assistance with paying online or have any questions concerning your Pledge, please call me at (530) 307-9663 or email to: murrington1944@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

Maryann
Currington

Online Giving & More

HERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO GIVE TO UUCM...

- If you do online banking, you can set up your UUCM Pledge as a monthly "bill" and then relax...your bank will automatically send a check out on the date(s) you specify.
- You can give through [UUCM's Online Giving](#) page. (Choose Pass-the-Plate, General Donation, or Pledge.)
- You can mail in a check for your current pledge or plate offering to UUCM, 246 South Church St, Grass Valley, CA 95945. (Please designate in the memo line whether your check is for your pledge, including the pledge year, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- You can give through PayPal at: paypal.me/uucm (Please leave a note as to whether your offering is for your pledge, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- For a general offering donation, you may text your amount to 833-579-0483. 25% will automatically go to our Pass-the-Plate partner.

Pass the Plate

Giving to our Pass-the-Plate partners has been fantastic throughout the pandemic months

Thanks to generous UUCM members and friends, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#) will receive \$675.25! Thank you, everyone, for your ongoing generosity!

We are currently completing August [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.

Our September partner is [Color Me Human](#), whose mission is to "Celebrate, Elevate, Educate, Advocate to create a safe, equitable world for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQ folks."

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





B & G Team

Wally Holtan
Chair, Building & Grounds Team

Welcome to the summer doldrums. Historically, August is the hottest, driest month of the year and we usually will take this month off as a respite from the heat. (This year is no exception except for some wonderful unexpected days of relief in the middle of the month.) If we add the Delta variant of Covid this was a good choice. However, there is work going on inside of the building. Gwen Eymann and Martha Turner have taken it upon themselves to paint the upstairs bathroom. This bathroom has suffered much damage from a leak that was not resolved until we put the new roof on last year. As this job requires a lot of preparation, I really appreciate their volunteering to tackle it.

I am hoping that by next month things will settle down all around and we can have a work day both inside and outside. To all my volunteers, thank you for all your continued support of our grounds and building work, and to the people out there who may decide to volunteer in the future, we look forward to hopefully seeing you in September.

-Wally



Robin Hart, Chair,
Art & Aesthetics Team

With September and the change of the seasons, our new church year has begun.

In the Spring there were hopeful expectations that, with vaccinations, we would be having church services in person again in the Fall. Unfortunately the Delta variant has upset these plans, and we as a congregation will have to be remote for a while longer. The Aesthetics team will continue to postpone any projects inside UUCM for now. The exception is the beautiful center of interest in the sanctuary that Shanti Emerson and Linda Siska provide every week to brighten up our services.



Caring Team

Gwen Eymann
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team

Are you feeling a hint of autumn in the air? May it bring cooler temperatures, cleaner air, and hopefully some much needed rain. That would help us all towards wellness.

This past month we have seen a resurgence of Covid cases across our community. Please be careful with your health and the health of others.

The Parish Care Team has 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

Art & Aesthetics Team

Over the Summer our team met again in person to look at the re-visioning of the backyard space that will be a collaboration of multiple teams. We are hopeful that we will be able to create an outdoor oasis that will be spiritually centered, low maintenance, and water efficient. This will unfold over time, so stay tuned for more information on this in the future.

This year we will again try to engage the congregation in projects that are spiritually creative and hopefully can have some in-person small groups to work on these. Take care and keep a rainbow in your heart.

Stay well and keep a rainbow in your hearts!

- Robin

Justice News

By Keith Johnson, Co-Chair, Justice Team

The Justice Team greets the new church year with a flurry of activities. Here are a few.

NEW TASK FORCE

At the August meeting the team approved the petition and strategic plan presented by the proposed task force opposing the reopening of the Idaho Maryland mine. Please plan on attending the breakout session after the service on September 5 to learn about the environmental concerns raised by this project. A final congregational vote to approve or disapprove the task force is scheduled for September 16.

UUCM WORK DAY AT IFM

A total of 14 people have volunteered for this on-going task. Thank you all! The group hopes to begin work at IFM in September. If you would like to join us, please contact Keith Johnson at kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com.

SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE CLEAN UP

This year's SYRCL Clean Up will be on Saturday September 18. UUCM will once again have a designated site where we can all work together and remove trash and debris from the Yuba or Wolf Creek. If you wish to volunteer for this worthwhile and fun event, please contact Bob Miller at bob@sierramiller.com.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Two of our long-standing partners are hosting fundraisers in September. The Justice Team encourages you to donate to these fundraisers if you are willing and able.

The Habitat for Humanity Street of Dreams fundraiser will be held on Thursday, September 23 at the Miners Foundry. There will be a full catered dinner and a large auction. Tickets are \$50 each for general admission and \$450 for a reserved table for 8. For more information see Street of Dreams | Nevada County Habitat for Humanity (nchabitat.org).

Hospitality House has modified its traditional Empty Bowl fundraiser to offer ticket holders the chance to visit up to seven different restaurants and sample house delicacies from each. Tickets are \$40. For more information click this link. Empty Bowl 2021 | Hospitality House (hhshelter.org)



Justice Warrior of the Month: Steve Temple

By Bernell Scott, Justice Team Member

Congratulations to Steve Temple, our Justice Warrior of the Month. Steve has spent most of his lifetime promoting social justice causes. Even in high school he was opposed to the Vietnam War. One focus for him has been sustainable agriculture, and he has worked and traveled to Central and South America plus the West Indies in that pursuit – often in dangerous times. Among other activities he established a 23-acre organic farm, and he was involved in Beyond War.

After retirement from teaching at UC Davis, Steve has been involved with Academics Without Borders USA, ICE detentions in Yuba City and Mine Watch here in Grass Valley. For Sierra Roots he has been an overnight steward/host at the cold weather shelter. For Interfaith Food Ministry he has driven a large refrigerated truck to the Roseville Food Bank Thursday mornings to bring back food to IFM. Besides all that, he was Co-Chair of our Justice Team for four years.

Thank you, Steve, for your many contributions to make the world a better place.



UPDATE FROM INTERFAITH FOOD MINISTRY

IFM sends bountiful thanks to UUCM for our Passing the Plate for them last month! Also thanks for offering volunteers to help make tamales for and help staff the Treat Street booth at the County Fair. The tamales were a great success!

IFM's 3rd annual benefit concert and comedy show is scheduled for Saturday, September 18th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Watch IFM's social media and website for more information to come.

IFM's 4th annual Hunger Run at Alta Sierra Country Club is scheduled for Saturday, October 30th. Information on registration is to come. Again, check IFM's social media and website.

<https://www.interfaithfoodministry.org/>
<https://m.facebook.com/interfaithfoodministry/>

Justice Team – Task Force News

Task Force Updates

By Bob Miller, Co-Chair, Justice Team

Here is news from two of our three task forces and important information about the proposed “Stop the Rise Gold Mine Justice Team Task Force” which is seeking approval from the congregation.

NISENAN TASK FORCE

Shelley Covert, spokesperson for the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, will be speaking at our October indigenous day service.

The Annual Harvest Dinner Fundraiser announced as the “Perpetuating City Rancheria Nisenan Culture: Fundraiser” has been cancelled due to concerns about the continuing spread of Covid 19. The November NISENAN HERITAGE DAY Celebration remains on the calendar. This is supported by funds from the cancelled event. You are encouraged to donate at chirpca.org.

We will keep reading the land acknowledgement at our services, which was recently updated with input from the Nisenan.

CARBON DIVIDEND TASK FORCE

The Carbon Divident Task Force continues to work in tandem with the local chapter of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby. They, and we, are laser-focused on advocating for legislation to put a price on carbon – preferably the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. We see this as a very special time in Congress when legislators are actively considering what to do about the climate crisis. We seek to influence these legislators by an avalanche of emails, phone calls and post cards.

We have heard from members how they are working to minimize their personal carbon footprint. This is important and to be commended. Some members are surprised that it is not the focus of this task force – if you consider our “laser focus” you can see why.



The SHOE made an appearance at the Nevada City First Friday Artwalk this month. On this smoky day there was a limited number of participants. On the other hand, those that stopped by were seriously interested in our campaign. We were disappointed that our plans to have the SHOE at the UUCM service in the park were thwarted by its cancellation. Maybe next time.

We have postcards with a picture of the SHOE as it appeared at the Grass Valley Thursday market. Let us know if you want some to mail to your senators and representative. Yard signs are also still available. bob@sierramiller.com

STOP THE RISE GOLD MINE JUSTICE TEAM TASK FORCE PROPOSAL

Jim Bair is leading a project to establish this as our fourth task force. He has prepared a petition and a strategic plan. The Justice Team approved them. See Jim’s article on the plans to inform the congregation and to seek the congregation’s approval.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM BREAKOUT SESSION ON A PROPOSED NEW TASK FORCE, SUNDAY, SEPT. 5:

Please join the Stop the Rise Gold Mine Justice Team Task Force (14 UUCM members) to share your questions and concerns after the service, Sunday, Sept. 5. The Stop the Rise Gold Mine Task Force was approved by the Justice Team Aug. 19, and now is ready to be approved by our Congregation. We will have an urgent and crucial discussion about why reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine should be opposed by UUCM. The Petition to form the Task Force and a short Task Force Strategic Plan are available for review by emailing aristotle2001@gmail.com.

The Rise Gold Mine Corp. is working to build a vast industrial extraction factory that is actually life threatening to residents of the Grass Valley area according to medical experts. Our review of the Mine’s Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will be due within the month. The Mine should not be approved by Nevada County.

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, socially-distanced and masked.

WEEKLY @ UUCM

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM EXCEPT FOR
SEPTEMBER 8: 9:00 AM AT CONDON PARK, MASKS REQUIRED
SERVICE WILL BE REBROADCASTED AT 11:00 VIA ZOOM**



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, SEPTEMBER 1, 11:00 AM



The UUCM Humanist Discussion group via Zoom this month. Here's the link to join us: <https://zoom.us/j/92259246223?pwd=ZG10YlpxSkRHcDkxGRSMWV1enVsdz09>

Our topic for September is labor: the services performed by workers for wages as distinguished from those rendered by entrepreneurs for profits, human activity that provides the goods or services in an economy.

Here are two sites, one with background on the labor movement in the United States and the other a retrospective on the history of work from the 1950s until today.

<https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/labor>

<https://www.atlassian.com/history-of-work>

I look forward to an interesting discussion on this topic on September 1st, I hope to see you then. 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 continuing due to the Delta variant, smoky air and hot weather. 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 OR jowaters@hotmail.com

Coming Fall FUUn:

By Jo Waters, UUCM

As I look back over the summer of 2021, I am struck by the feeling that it was a three-month exercise in mindfulness and starting over. Despite the initial surge of energy and possibility as the post-vaccine world opened up and mask restrictions eased, most of our plans did not come to fruition. Only two of our scheduled Summer of FUUN activities occurred—thank you to Kathryn Young for leading the Happy Hour Cooking Class and to John Burnside for taking a small group to the Donner Train Tunnels.

Many of our Puumpkin Patch gatherings had to be canceled either due to smoke or fire danger or covid. It would be easy to feel discouraged. And yet, these “failures” led to the need to reevaluate, to change direction, to recommit to the basics of compassion, connection, and care. Every time an event was canceled, there was an opportunity to start again, to become aware of the needs of the present moment, and to readjust. And in the spirit of starting over, here is what we hope will happen in Family Ministry going forward into the Fall.

I attended the Social Justice Team Meeting last week and explored ways in which we might include families and young people in their various activities. The Interfaith Food Ministry monthly workday is being tentatively scheduled for Thursday from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. The date has not been set yet—watch the echalice for details. There is a possible connection to be made with the Nisenan Task Force in regards to our Three Sisters Puumpkin Patch and our support for the local indigenous peoples. A trip to Washington DC next June is in the planning stages to lobby on behalf of Citizens Climate Lobby and a youth could be sponsored to attend. And we will continue to watch for more opportunities from the College of Social Justice.



Three Sisters' PUumpkin Patch

The Three Sisters PUumpkin Patch will continue into the fall with meetings to be held every-other-week, changing to an earlier time as the weather cools and days shorten. These meetings will include a multi-generational chalice lighting and joys and sorrows, and then we will have time for an activity and some time to just play together.

For now, this will continue to replace the *Kids Connection* and is open to all ages. Upcoming plans may include a Harvest Feast as our garden completes its summer growth, carving pumpkins for Halloween, and making crafts from our gourds for the winter gift-giving season. Again, watch the echalice for specifics.

UPCOMING PUUMPKIN PATCH DATES:

- Wednesday, September 8 at 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, September 22 at 6:00 PM

Contact Renemarie@gmail.com to RSVP and get directions.



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.



Soul Matters: EMBRACING POSSIBILITY

Of all our themes this year, Embracing Possibility is arguably most central to our faith. It has distinguished Unitarian Universalists from the start. Historically, when others saw depravity and sin at the core of human identity, we saw potential.

When many were preaching that this world was fallen, we fell in love with the possibility of heaven on earth. Theologically, you might say we were the people who believed that God hadn't given up on us and so we shouldn't give up on each other or this world. Psychologically, it's led to us being a people of "why not?" Why not give people another chance? Why not fight what seems a losing battle? Why not risk a little failure?

So that's our religion. But what about us personally? How open have you been recently to "Why not?" How's your faith in possibility doing? As we honor our religion's faith in what's possible, we need to allow space for the reality that trusting possibility isn't so easy for many of us.

Here's how one Soul Matters member puts the challenge: "When I think of possibility, I think of all the people and opportunities we close the door on. Such as: 'I will never see eye to eye with my sister.' 'I couldn't possibly leave this job to start my own business.' 'I will never have close friends like I had where I used to live.' 'I will never really make a difference, so why bother?'" We tell ourselves so many small stories about who we and others are. So many tiny tales of what the world could be. Part of it has to do with real life defeats. But often a bigger part of it is about imagined fear and protecting ourselves. There's comfort in convincing yourself that the effort is hopeless; that way you don't have to try and risk failure, hurt or disappointment, yet again. All of which is to say that maybe Embracing Possibility has more to do with being a people of vulnerability and courage than we've thought. The work isn't just about believing in possibility. It's about being willing to endure a few wounds along the way. It can hurt to be hopeful.

So maybe the question this month isn't "Are you ready to lean into possibility?" but "Who's beside you and who are you bringing along?" "Who have you gathered to patch and pick you up when the path gets bumpy?" Whose faith can you lean on when yours grows dim? After all, no one makes it down the road of possibility alone. And perhaps that's the real secret:

remembering that "Why not?" is something we all have to say and sing together. It's not a solo act. For it to sink in - and better yet take flight - it needs to be at least a duet. Of course a quartet is even better. And just imagine what we might pull off if we can gather a choir, all singing the tune of Embracing Possibility.



Soul Matters SHARING CIRCLE

Consider Joining a New Soul Matters Circle in 2021-22

Are you looking for deeper connection with others and a space within which you can explore your deepest values and your deepest self?

Soul Matters Circles are small, facilitated groups of 5-8 people who meet once a month from September/October through June to connect to others and to one's own deeper self using the monthly theme as a springboard and lens for reflection and sharing.

Each month, participants receive a packet of resources via email (or a printed packet, if needed). The packets offer quotes, poems, suggested practices, questions to consider, books suggestion, music ideas, links to articles, videos and movies and more. Each person chooses how deeply they will explore these resources as tools for reflection and conversation.

Participating in a Soul Matters Circle is one important way to get connected at UUCM, to get to know a few more people meaningfully and well as you explore your own inner life.

CURIOUS ABOUT JOINING A NEW CIRCLE?

In September we'll hold Opening Circles online for all who are interested in being part of a circle this year, as well as for those who are curious and want to learn what they are like:

Thursday, September 23 from 6:00-8:00 PM
Sunday, September 26, from Noon-2:00 PM.

Continued on next page...

Soul Matters

Check out the September packet [HERE](#), focused on the theme of "Embracing Possibility."

New this year, we'll be offering 3-, 6-, and 9-month circle options, as well as chances to choose whether you want to be in an "online-only" or "in-person-only" circle. Other circles will remain open to a blend of on-line and on-site participation, as virus protocols allow.

Click [HERE](#) to see the Soul Matters Circle Participant Guide on the UUCM website.

SURVEY SAYS...

Members and Pledging Friends, please watch for an email and survey. All, if you know you are interested in participating in a Soul Matters Circle this year, or you have questions, please contact Soul Matters Coordinator Jo Waters: jowaters@hotmail.com or (530) 414-6941.

Note: there is also a related **Men's Circle of Trust**. For information about the Men's Circle, contact either Jeff Stone at : jeffstone@mac.com or (530) 446-3334; or Phil Hart at : philhart115@gmail.com or (530) 263-9679.



Themes for 2021-2022

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

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!

September 12 - *The Transit Of Venus* by Shirley Hazzard
Delayed a week because of Labor Day Holiday.

This highly praised novel traces the lives of two Australian sisters who emigrate to England in the post-WWII era.

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)

September 2021 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

SEPTEMBER 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	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		10:30 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		4:00 PM	Worship Team Meeting
		7:00 PM	Choir
2	Thursday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
5	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
7	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
8	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		4:30 PM	Ministry Council Meeting
		6:00 PM	UUCM PUUmpkin Patch
		7:00 PM	Choir
9	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
12	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Sunday Book Group
13	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
14	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
15	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Board of Trustees Meeting
		7:00 PM	Choir

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
16	Thursday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		5:00 PM	Justice Meeting
18	Saturday	8:00 AM	Building & Grounds Work Day
19	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		2:30 PM	Poetry Reading
21	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
22	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		6:00 PM	UUCM PUUmpkin Patch
		7:00 PM	Choir
23	Thursday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		6:00 PM	Soul Matters Opening Circle
26	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		12:00 PM	Soul Matters Opening Circle
28	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		9:00 AM	Morning Meditation
29	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
30	Thursday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom



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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