

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

December 2021

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are now held online AND on-site!
9:30 AM on-site and Zoom, and 11:30 AM on-site each Sunday

You MUST reserve your seat(s) to attend in person.
Watch your email and eChalice for sign-up links, or contact the office at admin@uugrassvalley.org

TO JOIN THE ZOOM SERVICE AT 9:30 AM 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 12 for Kid-Centered Activities • •

DECEMBER THEME: Opening to Joy

Dec. 5 Opening to Joy: Odes to Hope
Rev. Kevin Tarsa,
Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

This service introduces our December theme: Opening to Joy. Let's face it, we are dealing with a lot of impediments to joy – an ongoing pandemic, steady escalation of extremism in our country with frightening assaults to freedom and democracy coming ever closer to home, and of course wildfires. So, do you really want us to open to joy and hope? YES, and that's what this service aims to do. Join us and be ready for everything from a flash mob to a special embodiment of heart opening... and lots more. See you there.

Dec. 12 Opening to Joy: Letting Go to Peace
Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Even in these more cautious times, the pace and energy of the holiday season picks up, with challenges, joys, and sadness all amplified. In this annual service inviting embodied peacefulness, we'll draw on silence, sound, breath, and movement as the words spoken invite us to let go of our striving in order to arrive where we are.

Dec. 19 Opening to Joy: Letting Go to Love
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Jeff Stone, Worship Associate

Relationships are where we access, discover, and work with the key pieces of who we are. Understandably, we place high demands on them. A little letting go might actually allow space for our

relationships to offer more of what we need and for us to recognize the joy available in the ordinary.

Dec. 20 Solstice Eve - on Monday
Beth Karow, Worship Assoc. and Rev. Kevin Tarsa

All Day: Enjoy an online, on-demand option at your own time and with whomever you choose. View the Solstice Eve service video from 2020, mark the turning of the year in story, ritual, and song. Sing along to your heart's content, and have your home candle or fire ready!

7:00 PM A Drum Circle Solstice Eve Celebration
On-site at UUCM by registration, or on-line via Zoom:

"No one can hold back the dawn," sings one of our usual Solstice chants. This year we honor that truth in heart, mind and body, while keeping it simple and celebratory (and COVID safer) with a Solstice Eve Drum Circle around a central altar.

Service Descriptions continued on Page 7

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

We enter our December theme of Opening to Joy having been prepared by the bridge of Thanksgiving week, with its invitation to know gratitude (even as we try to hold and find our way into and through the complex layers and painfulness embodied in the human histories of this continent and nation, including the treatment of this land's indigenous people).

Researchers who are seeking to better understand human emotions have realized that gratitude and joy are right next to each other on the spectrum of feelings and emotional states. The differences are so small, that for many purposes it isn't particularly useful to split hairs in order to make the distinction.

Joy/Gratitude. Gratitude/Joy.

With the weariness many of our bodies and spirits hold after exerting so much spiritual and emotional energy to survive the limits and losses of the pandemic and all that's come with it, "Opening to Joy" felt a little Pollyannaish to me at first. It felt like too much of a leap to ask for, and misplaced, in terms of timing, what with so much uncertainty and with a winter surge of virus infections approaching.

But then I paid attention and realized that the invitation is to learn to open ourselves to joy, not simply or suddenly to feel joyful. Plus, with this gradual submersion into the long nights of midwinter, with all the accompanying holidays and holy days that invite us to draw on the rhythms of the outer world to reflect on the rhythms of our inner world, learning to open ourselves to joy seems the helpful theme after all. Here in the northern latitudes of the northern hemisphere, opening to joy is the theme every winter, at some level.

And so, with the final November service we'll consider gratitude as our initial potential doorway to joy. Then, in the first three Sundays of December we'll draw on the African American hymn "There is More Love Somewhere" to identify other possible entrances and we'll explore them with open eyes, open minds, and open hearts: hope, peacefulness, and love. On Solstice Eve, we'll hold a candle-lit drum circle, rather than our traditional singing and dancing-graced service, stepping outside of the world of words to see if we can realize some measure of joy in our shared and connected rhythms in

community. By Christmas Eve, we'll let joy take center stage, warmed by music, candlelight, a touch of meaningful humor, and the beauty and gift of an evening set aside by so many for hope and connection.

The world and my own spiritual journey are asking me to learn to let go these days – to let go in general, to let go of the illusion of control, and especially to let go of all kinds of expectations that I hold for myself, for others, for life. Wise teachers across the ages and around the world suggest that letting go is a prerequisite for joy, or at least for a peaceful heart.

May you find a working entrance to joy this month, however tentative, and no matter what else the month brings for

you. May you find peace of heart in enough moments to realize gratitude and love. May you feel connected, within and without, to who and what matters most to you. May you know that you are not alone in the long nights of this journey, though in the late hours it may be difficult to see beyond the edge of your own weary light.

My friends, may we open ourselves to joy, even as we remain honest and real and caring about all the rest.

with care,

– Rev. Kevin



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



Board of Trustees

*Pam Kisor, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

This November, board members, along with Rev. Kevin, have been actively engaging our Beloved Community in "Open Question" gatherings. The open questions being explored are: "What opportunities are being presented to us now?" and "Where do we go from here?"

Exploring these questions has opened the Board and minister to a better understanding of what to pay attention to now, and also where the growing edges are for our community. These gatherings have led to timely and lively discussions while giving us the opportunity to interact in small groups with people we may know well, in addition to those we may have never met - or have met only on Zoom.

On a side note - that phrase, "I've only met you on Zoom!" is becoming a familiar saying. And it is always surprising when you finally do meet in person, isn't it? There is so much more information relayed in personal interactions than is relayed on a screen. Gathering in person reminds us that it can be wonderfully satisfying to be present together and share in meaningful ways. For me, these small group meetings have reinforced the idea that we need to foster opportunities for personal connection wherever and whenever we can. And, at

the same time, strive to keep the multi-platform experience as vital and connected as possible, so that all of our community can be supported and stay involved.

In addition to the wonderful opportunity to be together, our "Open Question" gatherings have produced many ideas about where to direct our energy and focus in the future. More will be shared about this as we complete the Open Question events and move into forming the Vision of Ministry in February. Thank you to all who participated - your contributions are vital to our shared vision and mission.

Along with these thoughts about the open sharing of our ideas and the importance of community, I offer this narrative piece on discovering what we most care about.

Turning to One Another by Margaret Wheatley

"There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about. Ask "What's possible?" not "What's wrong?" Keep asking.

Notice what you care about.

Assume that many others share your dreams.

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.

Talk to people you know.

Talk to people you don't know.

Talk to people you never talk to.

Be intrigued by the differences you hear.

Expect to be surprised.

Treasure curiosity more than certainty.

Invite in everybody who cares to work on what's possible.

Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something.

Know that creative solutions come from new connections.

Remember, you don't fear people whose story you know.

Real listening always brings people closer together.

Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.

Rely on human goodness. Stay together."

Happy holidays everyone! May your holiday season be filled with love and meaningful connections with others.

Namaste,

Pam

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022

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

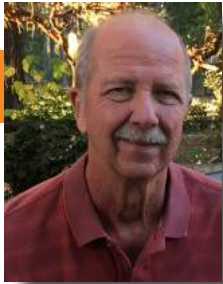
Members at Large: Taylor Carey and Janet Dunstan

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.



Wally Holtan
Chair, Building & Grounds Team

Building and Grounds Team

Another beautiful fall day and ten wonderful willing volunteers were present for our November Building and Grounds work day! Paul Elias worked inside cleaning the chairs for the service the following day while Gwen, George, Theresa, Connie, Phil Horning, Kern, Bob Packard and Ruth Edwards worked outside. Cleaning the yard area of debris from the previous month of windy and stormy weather as well as removing debris that could clog the downspout drains from the roof kept everyone busy. When Paul finished cleaning the chairs, he looked at our dish washers with recently discovered, severe leaks which have not been used much in the last 18 months. It was discovered that the rats we had in the building over that time chewed through the discharging plastic tubes which we now need to replace. As always, it was great to interact with a number of UUs. Remember, if you are new to our community or someone that wants to help our community maintain our building and grounds in a presentable condition, you are always welcome to join us on our monthly work days.

Building and Grounds is developing a new work strategy that will allow more people to volunteer who cannot always work on the weekends. It will also allow people to focus where they most like to volunteer on a regular basis. We'll be dividing the team between working *in the building* or working *on the grounds*.

PROPOSED BUILDING MAINTENANCE PLAN

Building and Grounds is looking for a person or persons who would be willing to volunteer as a leader for the care and maintenance of the inside of UUCM's building. This ideally would involve a monthly commitment for a specific period of time. This person would be responsible for organizing and directing a small group of volunteers (approximately 3-5) who will be responsible for keeping the inside of the building clean and orderly, and organizing the cleaning supplies used at UUCM. The work would mostly be the care and maintenance

beyond the duties of our custodial cleaners.

Building and Grounds inside volunteers would be needed on a monthly basis, either scheduling a single monthly work day which could coincide with the Grounds Maintenance team's work day or another day of their choice.

If this is a position that you might be interested in volunteering for, please contact me at uucmgv@gmail.com for more details.

PROPOSED GROUNDS MAINTENANCE PLAN

Building and Grounds is also looking for a person or persons who would be willing to volunteer to take over leadership and management of UUCM's yard and garden. This would ideally be a monthly commitment for a specific period of time. Theresa Houtman is retiring from this position and we are looking for a person who has some basic gardening knowledge and can help guide us in the care and maintenance of our plants and grounds. Theresa would initially be involved to help in the transition. This person will be in charge of a group of volunteers who will meet on a monthly basis either on a given reoccurring work day or a day that their group decides will work best for them. In order for this to work we would need a minimum of five people.

If this is a position that you might be interested in, please contact me at uucmgv@gmail.com.

I will be able to give you more specific details about what the position entails.

The Building and Grounds Team will continue to have special workdays as needed in order to work on specific major or unexpected projects. However, they may not always take place on Saturdays and would hopefully reach out to everyone in the congregation. Also, and importantly, this would be a slow transition so nobody would be left out on their own in the beginning. So, if you feel like stepping up to a new adventure, take the leap!

-Wally





Parish Care

Gwen Eymann
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team

By Jenny Dewey, Member, UUCM Caring Team

"History repeats itself..." is an old adage attributed to a number of public figures, Mark Twain among others. In a recent sermon Reverend Kevin said these words followed by, "But, repeating history is not inevitable," holding with the idea that history repeating itself excludes us from meaningful change. Rejecting the idea of repeated history allows for faith that even the smallest efforts help.

In our UUCM congregation we hold with the firm belief we can affect change for the better. One way we do this is through the work of the Parish Caring Team. Members of the team keep an eye on the congregation to know who needs support and encouragement. The goal is to bring fresh air to troubles old and new. By rejecting the adage about repeating history we provide hope. We do this by offering a range of assistance. We know we can make a difference if we try.

If you wish to join up please do so. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 4:00 PM. The team gives rides, meals delivered to doorsteps, visits (where possible with regard to Covid), and listening – always listening.

PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

Caring@uugrassvalley.org or hennifreed@gmail.com



Pastoral Care

Tom Wernigg, Chair
UUCM Lay Pastoral Care Team

UUCM's Lay Pastoral Care Team (LPCT), currently led by Tom Wernigg, offers a confidential, caring presence to congregants undergoing stressful life challenges. Team members commit to be available for weekly caring conversations of up to one hour, and for the duration of a congregant's stressful challenge or until a time of closure arises naturally.

ARE YOU FACING A CHALLENGE IN YOUR LIFE?

Please reach out to Rev. Kevin (minister@uugrassvalley.org or (231) 883-1058) or Tom Wernigg (tomwernigg@gmail.com or (530) 575-8766) when you are facing a difficult challenge in your life, and if you feel that a companioning presence from one of our team members might be helpful to you.

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

Tom Wernigg, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, and George Dunstan. They are wonderful, kind, heart-centered persons, and we are very fortunate for their caring and skillful presence and their willingness to give of themselves in this way.



Art & Aesthetics

Robin Hart, Chair,
Art & Aesthetics Team

A&A Happenings

The team met on zoom in November to go over plans that Phil Horning has drawn up for the church back yard project and various team members were given tasks to get an idea of what the costs will be to put this design into action. With the church opening back up to the congregation, we will also be working on some interior projects over the next months.

Take care and keep a rainbow in your hearts!

- Robin

P.S. On the next page, Team Member Shanti Emerson, the primary person who does the Center of Interest for the Sunday services, talks about the process of creating one each Sunday.





Art & Aesthetics – Center of Interest

*Shanti Emerson,
Art and Aesthetics Team Member*

We're Evolvin'

*by Shanti Emerson,
Art & Aesthetics Team Member*

Have you noticed that our altars are a-changin'? It has been great fun to plan and execute them.

Our altars always reflect the current season using plants that are at their most robust—roses in summer, pyracantha in autumn, evergreens in winter and all kinds of colorful flowers in spring. We also keep in touch with the Worship team and decorate according to the theme of the month and especially the theme of each Sunday. We work with Worship Associates to see what they need and envision.

There are certain elements of our altar (also called Center of Interest) that are always there and we must work around. Hung on the wall is the beautiful wood logo crafted by Joel Houtman. Also there is the UUCM chalice, the size of the shelf, and the small basket of acorns honoring the Nisenan Tribe. Candles are a must, and we almost always have some form of vegetation. We, of course, often have flowers but we also use tree limbs, vines, pine cones, and more.

Recently, I decorated the sacred place with many objects and put a small token candle near the chalice. To my surprise, the worship associate requested that we have larger candles as this was a sacred element to her. Since the altar was full, I placed three large candle holders on the floor rising above the front of the altar, and that worked out well.

We have had playful altars using toys or wooden elephants and giraffes. We've used books and food and



photos and mirrors and even a telescope to go with the various Sunday themes. We have bins full of altar cloths, each container filled with a particular color. We have dozens of candles, candle holders and vases. Thanks for your donations, especially Judith Ellen who has recently gifted us with beautiful candlesticks and exotic red altar cloths.

I have worked on altars for many years. Each altar is different according to the religion and the size and shape of the table itself.

My first opportunity was at an Episcopal church which was politically progressive but religiously traditional. The altar was high above the congregation and had a stained glass window on top of it. The altar guild kept the white linen cloths clean in addition to keeping the silver containers of Communion elements untarnished. There was a large vase on each side and the elaborate flower arrangements were paid for by members of the congregation honoring loved ones who had passed on. This altar was beautiful and elegant but entirely predictable.

This was quite different from the UUCM altars where we are encouraged to use our imaginations each week and come up with

new creative ideas. Thanks to our UU altaristas Linda Siska, (also an Art & Aesthetics team member) Gail Johnson Vaughan, Beth Karow, Rene Wiley, and Melissa Ridgway for their good work.

I so appreciate your loving comments and hope to delight you with an original one-time-only altar design each Sunday.



UPCOMING SERVICES

Continued from Page 1...

If you would like to be present in person, sign up so we can be sure to have adequate spacing. Bring your drum, shaker, rattle, or rhythm sticks, if you have them. We'll teach rhythms as we go, and will leave ample room for your creativity.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve (Friday)

All day and beyond: Teddy Bear Pageant on-demand video

At your own time and with whomever you choose, enjoy the Teddy Bear Pageant prepared for last Christmas - the Christian Nativity story told like never before or since. Watch the eChalice, your email, and the website for the link.

7:00 PM Opening to Joy, Inside and Out –
Rev. Kevin, Worship Associate Chuck Champlin,
Jordan Thomas-Rose, and UUCM musicians

On-site at UUCM by registration, or on-line via Zoom –

Christmas Eve invites a gentle and joyous warmth and connection. With carols, candlelight, story, and images we'll draw on the gift of an evening set aside by so many to look for hope and joy. Weather permitting, we'll move outside at the end of the service to pass the light and sing Silent Night together.

Dec. 26 Remembering Joy-

A fully-recorded, on-demand service

Go with the flow of your day after Christmas and take in this fully recorded service at the time it works best for you and yours. Invite a friend or two from your pod to join you, get your chalice ready, and maybe share some food together afterward.

For this final service of the year, our Worship Team and Rev. Kevin have woven together elements from throughout the past 20 months of services to offer you a meaningful service of "best of" moments – moving music, inspiring story, thoughtful words, favorite insights. Watch the eChalice, your email, and the website for the link.

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. In addition, UUCM will get the whole amount – no fees deducted!
- 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

Each month, UUCM partners with a local organization that is working to create a more just, equitable, compassionate and sustainable world. UUCM's Justice Team makes the connections and the decision about each year's list of partners.

Thanks to UUCM members and friends who made donations in October, [Habitat for Humanity](#) will receive \$831.25 to support its work to bring local people together to build homes, communities and hope, envisioning a community where everyone has the opportunity to have a safe, decent, affordable place to live. Thank you, everyone, for your generosity!

We are currently completing November collections for [Sammie's Friends](#) which offers a safe and caring place for neglected, abandoned, and abused animals to be cared for and rehabilitated, when necessary, and adopted as quickly as possible into loving homes.



Our December partner is Hospitality House, a legacy of UUCM's own Utah Phillips. (UUCM served as the first intake location back in the beginning when churches took turns offering overnight housing and hospitality.)

The mission of Hospitality House is to bring homeless people in Nevada County into a circle of community caring that offers shelter, sustenance, medical care, advocacy, opportunity, dignity, and hope as we assist them in transitioning from homelessness to housing.

It's a moving connection to the Christian Christmas story of a temporarily homeless family in search of shelter, dignity and hope.

As always, your ongoing support for our partners allows us to make a meaningful difference together!

Justice News and Activities

Justice Team News

By Keith Johnson, Co-Chair, Justice Team

The big news is the establishment of the Stop the Mine task force. Congratulations to Jim Bair and all the task force members who worked so hard to bring this task force to life.

So now what? With the uncertain future of the Challenging White Privilege task force and the Carbon Dividend task force, we need to think about new task forces. Remember that task forces are created by members of the congregation and not by the Justice Team, the Minister, the Board of Trustees, or anyone else. It is your call – what do YOU want to do to create a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just?

Having trouble conceptualizing a task force that works for you? Let's see if we can stimulate your imagination. Described below are two possibilities that may (or may not) be up your alley. You decide.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE

What does our local community need? More importantly, what can UUCM do to fill that need? This task force would seek answers to this question. Tactics would include interviewing government officials, staff from non-profit agencies, and community leaders about the problems facing our community. Hopefully this task force would propose new task forces to combat the identified injustices.

DROP-IN DAY CENTER FOR THE UNHOUSED

Most of the unhoused population has no place to go during the day. Perhaps UUCM could partner with other churches to provide a welcome and warm place to stay for at least some days. We could also partner with local agencies to offer counseling and other services.

Would you join a Needs Assessment or a Drop-In Center task force? Do you have other ideas? Please let the Justice Team know your thoughts.



Here's an update on our UUCM Justice Team to include our newest Task Force, "Stop the Mine."

Justice Warrior of the Month: Bob Miller

By Bernell Scott, Justice Team Member

Bob has a long Unitarian Universalist history. He has been a member of congregations in Stow, Massachusetts; Reno, Nevada and now UUCM. He has fond memories of working on teams in the basement of a New England church where he began his slow assimilation into American civilization.

During most of his UU membership, he has volunteered on teams responsible for the operation of the congregation; for example: finance, fund-raising and sound. Although Bob considered promotion of justice to be the most important mission of a congregation, he relied on others to do it.

Recently Bob retired from much of his work on "nuts and bolts" teams to actively participate in the justice effort as he wanted to directly contribute to "creating a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just." Surveying the myriad of causes that deserved attention, he nevertheless recognized the effectiveness of focusing on only one. Given his education in physics, he decided to address the climate crisis.

More recently he was delighted to join Keith Johnson as co-leader of the Justice Team while continuing to lead the Carbon Dividend Task Force. He hopes the team can encourage more members of UUCM to become active in justice work.



Bob stands next to our giant Carbon Footprint Shoe outside the SPD Market, helping spread the news about our carbon footprint, and what we can do to reduce it.

Justice News and Activities - Task Force Updates

Task Force Updates

STOP THE MINE TASK FORCE - AMAZING NEWS!

By Jim Bair, Leader, Stop the Mine Task Force

We are inspired by the UUCM vote on November 7 that approved the Stop the Mine Task Force. After months of preparation, the Task Force proposal was presented to a special Congregation Business Meeting called by the UUCM Board. All Task Forces must be approved by a quorum of UUCM Members (30 in this case).

Meeting challenges popped up like moles in Whack-a-Mole, the largest being Covid-driven use of Zoom. Probably unique in UUCM history, we held the Zoom-plus-sanctuary special "multimedia" meeting. With scheduling as well as technical hurdles looming, we were glued to our screens as members joined.

It was breathtaking! By 1:00 pm we already had our wished-for quorum, and then the number grew – 35, 40, 50, 60, to 68 Members! With a quick introduction, the Vote. The results were stunning; 100% voted for the Task Force. Now we get to work to fulfill our UUCM imperative.

Our detailed work agenda is available upon request, and it represents being a voice for all of us. The eighteen Task Force Workers and Supporters are focusing our energy on communicating the impacts of the Mine.

Serving as a voice for UUCM means ALL members, so we want be sure your message is delivered to the County decision makers. Please send your messages to Jim at aristotel2001@gmail.com and we will turn them into letters and other deliverables.

Onward to protect our community.

NISENAN TASK FORCE

By Carmen Riley, Leader, Nisenan Task Force

'UBA SEO is a new(er) space in downtown Nevada City where the Nisenan will be featuring gallery exhibits, retail, and a workshop space. It is the desire of the Nisenan to bring authentic Native American art and education to our community while focusing on Native California artists. 'UBA SEO is another amazing step toward raising the visibility of the Nevada City Rancheria and their fight to have their federal recognition restored.

'UBA SEO Nisenan Arts and Culture

225 Broad Street, Nevada City

Gallery Hours: Thursday–Sunday, 1:00 - 6:00 PM
Monday, Noon – 5:00 PM

**ON DISPLAY THROUGH DECEMBER 23, 2021:
ERASED: A Timeline and History of Legislative
and Legal Erasure**

Please make time to visit this very important, true history exhibit if you haven't already. Masks Required. This exhibit brings focus to anti-Indian legislation, negation of Tribal sovereignty and lasting impact of forced assimilation that continue to affect the Nisenan today.

Thank you for your continued support.



CARBON DIVIDEND TASK FORCE

*By Bob Miller, Leader,
Carbon Dividend Task Force*

Contact Bob Miller at:
Bob@sierramiller.com

Will we get a price on carbon? The Senate is discussing this. It's time to call your senators. Go to cclusa.org/senate-call

Meanwhile, our giant Carbon Footprint Shoe is hibernating for the winter. It has found a safe home in Christy Barden's barn. Thanks, Christy!

The future of the Task Force depends on what happens in Congress and discussions among Carbon Task Force members. What do you think?

Justice News and Activities

Potential Justice Partners

By Carol Kuczora, Justice Team Member

Do you know about these justice subgroups of our national group, the Unitarian Universalist Association, that we could partner with? Here are some you might find worthwhile... please click the links to find out more!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OFFICE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

From involvement in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation and gender identity issues, the UUA Office at the UN has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level.

<https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un>

CREATE CLIMATE JUSTICE NET

This is a joint initiative of the UU Ministry for Earth, UUA Green Sanctuary Program, and UU-United Nations Office.

<https://www.createclimatejustice.net/>

UUs FOR JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Its Legislative Working Group members put pressure on Congress to preserve our constitutional right to boycott, restore aid to the Palestinians, and work to change the U.S. policy of enabling, sustaining, and profiting from the Israeli occupation.

<https://www.uua.org/offices/organizations/uujme>

Nevada County has long had independent groups addressing these same issues. Check them out, too.

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, GOLDEN EMPIRE CHAPTER

Contact for information: kscourtes@gmail.com

CLIMATE ACTION NOW

<https://www.ncclimateactionnow.org/>

PALESTINE-ISRAEL WORKING GROUP OF NEVADA COUNTY (PIWG)

<https://www.ncpeace.org/palestine-israel-working-group-2/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1915740368650528>



Interfaith Food Ministry Update

Sponsor A Family For The Holidays has begun! \$20 pays for both a meal and the family's regular food distribution. Checks can be made

payable to IFM, 440 Henderson Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945 or you can pay on the website FeedingFamilies.org

IFM VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

IFM is experiencing increased client numbers and the trend is expected to continue through the Holidays. They need more volunteer help than ever! Below are listed the various volunteer jobs, along with shift days and times, and some basic information about what each job entails. Training is provided for ALL positions.

CHECKERS - M W F FROM 9:15 AM TO 1:15 PM.

Job Description: Checkers work in outdoor booths at the drive-through food distribution area, checking in and interviewing clients for their food preferences, and filling out a ticket. They also gather new and client information and log client visits on a database computer program.

DATA ENTRY - MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 1:00-2:00 PM.

Job Description: Work either on your own computer at home or at IFM on their computers; log food bag counts for each client and if at IFM, tidy up your station.

Interested in either of the above?

Contact Connie Mattis at 530-272-8489.

TRAFFIC CONTROL - M W F FROM 9:15 AM TO 1:15 PM.

Job Description: Friendly people needed to greet clients as they enter and give them information, reminders, and hand out flyers. They will direct cars to the booths and keep the line from backing up onto the road. *If interested, please contact Jim Luckenbill at 530-265-4655.*

PACKERS AND SORTERS - T OR TH FROM 7:00 - 10:00 AM OR SATURDAYS, 3:00 - 6:00 PM.

Job Description: Pack staple bags, specialty bags, smaller items, bag grains, rotate stock and condense pallets. Sort donated food into categories. Stock pantry shelves, pull dated cans or outdated food.

DISTRIBUTORS - M W F - 7:00 AM TO 2:00 PM.

(You are not required to work the whole shift.)

Job Description: Sort food, pack bread and produce bags, sort and bag eggs. Fill orders from clients' tickets by taking pre-packed carts and add options. Note and record the number of bags on the carts, repack empty carts. Clean up your station at the end of the day.

If interested in Packing or Distributing, contact Anna Gloria at 530-277-2920.

DRIVERS- SEVEN DAYS A WEEK 7:00 TO 9:30 AM,

Volunteers need to have a pick up truck, SUV or van.

Job Description: Pick up food donations from local grocery stores. You will be trained with an experienced driver, and route lists and instructions provided. Plan to volunteer at least two days per month. **Contact John Bradford at 530-751-6242.**

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 30 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 – 9:30 AND 11:30 AM VIA ZOOM

ON-SITE ATTENDANCE FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE
Reservations required -- Watch UUGeneral and/or eChalice for a link to reserve your space, masks and social-distancing protocols will be observed.

OR YOU CAN ATTEND FROM HOME – 9:30 AM VIA ZOOM



SUNDAY DROP-IN SUPPORT CIRCLE – 10:45 AM

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, DECEMBER 1, 11:00 AM

The UUCM Humanist Discussion group will meet via Zoom. Here's the link to join us:

<https://zoom.us/j/92259246223?pwd=ZG10YlpXSkrHcDkxGRSMWV1enVsdz09>



This month we will be talking about a recent jury decision in a case that garnered national attention and what a Humanist view of that decision and the legal system in general might be.

See you on December 1st. 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 outdoor social time afterward. Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcome. Please contact Theresa Houtman at Walking@uugrassvalley.org to get on the list.



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 to for now. 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.

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

December: Opening to Joy!

By Jo Waters, Chair, UUCM Family Ministry

The days grow short and the nights grow long. In the cold of this season I find myself drawn to warm wooly knits and hot drinks and working in front of the fire. My thoughts slow and sink like maple syrup left to cool after warming. I sleep a lot more and eat more hearty foods like soup and beans. It is an effort to pull away from my house to socialize, but as with many things that are scarce, these social connections are even more precious when they occur. In the spirit of our December theme of Opening to Joy during the depths of winter, we have decided to focus on the activities that are most important.

On Wednesday, December 1 we will gather to decorate the Sanctuary for the month. Hopefully Rev Kevin will join us and we can enjoy some of his beautiful holiday piano playing.

Wednesday, December 15 we'll have a holiday movie for the young folks while the adults gather for our monthly team meeting.

Wednesday, December 22 we intend to invite all of the young adults in the area, both current and former participants at UUCM, to gather and celebrate the season. We will offer a holiday movie but are open to whatever this group decides to do with the evening.

All events will be at UUCM at 5:30pm and food of some variety will be available.

Now that services have started up in person again, the question becomes, what will we offer for youngsters attending church? We have decided not to reopen the nursery for multiple reasons. Instead, we have busy bags available for use during service, and you will notice a new Kids Korner set up in the Sanctuary where little ones can play under the supervision of their attending adult.



YOUNG & EMERGING ADULTS

Offerings in the wider community for this age group, many of whom are no longer at home, include the Young Adult Revival Network (YARN) at yarn.org and the Free Radical Ministry.

As always, watch the eChalice for details and updates as well as selections from the Soul Matters RE Curriculum which can be done at home.



The Unitarian Universalist Association
presents:

FREE RADICAL MINISTRY

A campus / gap-year / post-bridging online
ministry for emerging adults

INCLUDING VIRTUAL WORSHIP
EXPERIENCES, PERSONAL CONNECTIONS
(HANG TIME), AND SOCIAL / SOCIAL
JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES IN A UU EMERGING
ADULT GROUP SETTING

Sign up:
<https://forms.gle/QPkCbFvVTTZsQfE86>

Full Community Education



December Soul Matters: OPENING TO JOY

It's easy to get tricked,
taken for a ride,
convinced that joy
is a possession.

Something to be opened
just by us.
As if it's a holiday special
delivery,
waiting for us to unwrap it
and keep forever.

And who can blame us,
with pain being so prevalent.

Sadness seems to stay.
Why can't joy?

But maybe it's elusive
for a reason.
Maybe it's slippery
in order to help us understand
that it was put here to fly.
Or better yet:
To be flung!
To be passed, not possessed.
To be spread
between you and me,
between the ones who received its gift
and the ones that have been looking for its treasure
for a very long time.

Maybe it's a beautiful and elegant contagion,
over which we have more control than we think.
If only we share it.
If only we notice that joy is not ours to keep,
but ours to give.

Maybe joy opens us
as much as we open to it.

Maybe that's the way light leaks into our world.

SOUL MATTERS THEMES FOR 2021-2022

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 -

USUALLY THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1:00 PM

December 12 - *Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell.

(Note: Date has been changed.)

A brilliantly written historical fictional account of William Shakespeare's son, who died at age eleven from the bubonic plague. Led by Susan Merrill.

January 2 - *The Civil Wars of Julia Ward Howe*,
by Elaine Showalter.

The New Yorker calls this a "lively biography" about a powerful feminist pioneer and author of the Civil War anthem, "Battle Hymn of Republic." Led by Ruth Edwards.

February 20 - *Killers of the Flower Moon, The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Grann.

This National Book Award Finalist is a masterful piece of journalism crafted with the urgency of a mystery. The Osage, in Oklahoma, were some of the wealthiest people in the US in the 1920s, then they started dying. This fascinating true story will enlighten, anger, and impress you with its compelling writing and research. Led by Theresa and Joel Houtman

March 27 - *Distant Neighbors: The Selected Letters of Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder*, by Gary Snyder and Wendell Berry.

A collection of letters between these two authors is a grand journey into the lives of two very different men from different parts of the country who share a love for the earth and its care.

All meetings will be scheduled for the first Sunday at 1:00 PM, and held at 418 Chapel Street, unless noted otherwise.

All are welcome to join for any oral discussions. To request to join via Zoom, please provide at least one week's notice.

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.

December 2021 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

DECEMBER 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.

1	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		9:00 AM	UUCM AVP Workshop
		10:30 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		5:30 PM	Family Ministry Tree Trimming & Caroling at UUCM
		6:00 PM	Worship Team Meeting
2	Thursday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		10:00 AM	Sabbatical Planning Committee
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
4	Saturday	1:00 PM	Spiritual Conversations
5	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		7:00 PM	Choir
7	Tuesday	8:30 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
9	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		10:00 AM	Sabbatical Planning Committee
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		2:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
12	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Sunday Book Group
		7:00 PM	Choir
13	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
14	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

15	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Board of Trustees Meeting
		5:00 PM	Justice Team Meeting
		7:00 PM	Family Ministry Holiday Movie at UUCM
16	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		10:00 AM	Sabbatical Planning Committee
18	Saturday	9:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Party
19	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		7:00 PM	Choir
20	Monday	7:00 PM	Solstice Eve Service
21	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
22	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		7:00 PM	FM Young Adults Holiday Movie
23	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		10:00 AM	Sabbatical Planning Committee
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
24	Friday		Teddy Bear Christmas on-demand Service
		5:30 PM	Christmas Eve Service at UUCM
25	Saturday		Christmas Day
26	Sunday		Remembering Joy on-demand Service
27	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
29	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
30	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		10:00 AM	Sabbatical Planning Committee
31	Friday		New Year's Eve



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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

Sunday Services are now held at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM on-site for a limited number of people – reservations required! Zoom Service is at 9:30 AM

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

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

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

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

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

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

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

MtChalice@uugrassvalley.org

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

VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS:

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