

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

February 2022

## UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are at 10:30 AM via Zoom, and on-site, by registration.

You **MUST** reserve your seat(s) to attend in person.

Watch your email and eChalice or [uugrassvalley.org](http://uugrassvalley.org) for sign-up links, or contact the office at [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org)

**TO JOIN THE ZOOM SERVICE AT 10:30 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 • • •

### FEBRUARY THEME: *Widening the Circle*

**February 6** *Weaving Waters: A Regional Sunday Service*  
Pacific Western Region UU leaders and UUA Congregational Life Staff

Come, celebrate our connection to Unitarian Universalists far beyond UUCM in this embodied, engaging, multi-gen on-line worship service focusing on a parable of interdependence and unity. We'll be joining congregations all over the western third of the United States, plus Alaska and Hawaii. (Yes, enjoying the service together on-site at UUCM is also an option, for those who register.)

**NOTE:** For this service, you will be asked to interact, or imagine interacting, with sand, salt, stone, seeds, and vessels for pouring water. You may want to have those nearby before you settle in for the service.

**February 13** *Widening the Circle, Remembering the Center*  
Rev. Kevin, with Grace Kendrick and Jeff Stone, Worship Associates

As Grace, Jeff, and Rev. Kevin explored the theme of "widening the circle," they kept being drawn back to the awareness that expanding the edges of our circle outward is most possible, perhaps only possible, when we stay rooted in or connected to the center. Or is it that expanding the edges of our circle ultimately leads us into our center?

**February 20** *What Circle? - Toxic polarization, cloudy conflicts, and the need to change our ideas about change.*  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa; Grace Kendrick, Worship Assoc.

*Impossible. Frightening. Dangerous. That's how it feels. In The Way Out, Peter T. Coleman takes head on the pressing question, "What can we do to escape the grip of partisan contempt in our divided society and get back to solving our most pressing problems?" His experience researching, teaching, and facilitating conflict resolution leads him to suggest answers, but likely not the answers you expect. Let's open up our sense of hope by first opening up our sense of the problem.*

### February 27 *Everybody In!*

Lindsay Dunckel, Rev. Kevin Tarsa, and you!

*Calling all ages, sizes, shapes, and personalities – we mean it – EVERYBODY IN! Join us for a vibrant celebration of widening the circle, through parable, song and . . . well, you'll see!*

**NOTE:** We'll be collecting wish list items for KARE Crisis Nursery all month, and in a special offering today. See page 5 for the list of items.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

Widening the circle of our care and concern is a perennial goal in Unitarian Universalism, at least in spirit or in stated intent. It is a thread that runs through all seven of our UU Principles, from our affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, to our awareness that we are part of a thoroughly interdependent web of existence.

Living that intention has given us some of the best parts of our tradition's history – courageous theological openness, support of abolition, women's rights, workers' rights, reforms of mental health care institutions, animal rights, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + rights, for example.

And not quite living that intention has been our tradition's perennial shortcoming – opposition by some to each of the above, a tendency to disparage or denigrate Christianity and those who are politically conservative, and the strikingly less progress made toward facing and dismantling racism in our ourselves, our ways of being, and our institutions.

Still, we hold the aspiration before us, and appropriately so, to widen the circle of our care, compassion, and concern outward, to edges ever farther from our tradition's Boston Brahman historical center. Thus the invitation in our congregation and in our denomination to adopt and commit to an 8th Principle, a principle that shouldn't be necessary, technically, since in theory the existing principles ought to lead us to it and through it.

But, because it moves against powerfully infused patterns and because it will require deep transformation to become a tradition that not only welcomes and incorporates people of color, but an institution and a people willing and able to be thoroughly influenced and changed – transformed – by people of color, we need to commit to and hold before us a principle that will call us forward, a principle that requires our commitment to dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions.

The recently affirmed and newly named *Voting Rights and Dismantling Racism Task Force* will, among other things, advocate for and invite the congregation to adopt the proposed 8th Principle. Watch for the task force members' invitations to engage.

Meanwhile, we have many ways to widen the circle of our care and concern. When worship associates Grace Kendrick, Jeff Stone and I met to explore this month's theme and to surface an image for it, rippling rings of water came immediately to our minds' eyes. And just as quickly we realized that this month is not about a single set of concentric rings rippling outward, but about many circles of rings rippling outward, meeting and influencing and overlapping – as you see when rain drops fall upon still water. Where are the outer edges of your care and concern, these days?

On February 6, we'll join UUs from New Mexico to Washington State, Montana to California to Alaska and Hawaii for a shared Sunday service, listening and feeling for its call to the edges of our collective care. On February 13, Grace, Jeff and I will share reflections on the need to stay connected to the center in order to reach out at our margins. On February 20, I will try to bring you words of encouragement and hope, if not ease, and to face head on the spiritual, emotional, social, and political dilemma of our toxically polarized nation. And on February 27, we'll embody our month's theme in story and song, affirming that for us, at our best, it's "Everybody in!"

May each of us find something in the month that helps us to widen our circle at least just a little.

That would be no small thing.

with care

– Rev. Kevin

### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

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

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



# Board of Trustees



Pam Kisor, President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees

"For a seed to achieve its greatest expression, it must come completely undone. The shell cracks, its insides come out and everything changes. To someone who doesn't understand growth, it would look like complete destruction."

- by Heather Warman

Coming "completely undone" feels like the perfect description of life these days. At our core we all need shelter, intimacy and belonging. But every time we turn around, we are met with some new challenge to these basic needs. Winter storms, power outages, COVID spikes, isolation, separation from loved ones, etc. etc. etc.... So many things we used to take for granted just aren't readily available now.

I am exhausted by the continued mushiness of our lives. So for today, let's focus on what is available and constant. What is lasting and concrete that we can count on – no matter what? For me these things are intangibles like love, relationships, kindness, caring for others, being cared for and being in community with our UU members and friends. (Plus, the Girl Scouts added a new cookie to this year's lineup: "Adventurefuls, a brownie-like treat, finished with caramel-flavored crème and sea salt." So that's gonna provide some tangible comfort for sure!)

This leads me to ask: what is constant and reliable in our UU community? What are our strengths? We will explore these questions and more at the Community Visioning workshop the last weekend in February. Visioning helps us to identify our strengths and set goals that will reinforce what we do best, as well as lead us into our growing edge. We hope you join in this workshop to help us discern these questions: What in our community is permanent? What in our community remains essential? What needs do we identify now? And what do we yet long for?

Please come and be a part of shaping our ever-changing

'growing edge.'

And finally, thank you all for your participation in our Community Business meeting. Your involvement supports us in fulfilling our mission and furthers the work of our community. How wonderful that we were able to renew and revitalize our Justice Task Forces this year. They have shown flexibility in rising to the current needs of our community and are well equipped to support our mission "... to create a world more compassionate, sustainable and just". I look forward to seeing the impact each of these groups will have in the

upcoming year. Thank you to all the Task Force leaders and members who support this important work.

Namaste,

*Pam*

**PLEASE NOTE:**

This month, our Board Meeting is moving to the FOURTH Wednesday, so it will be held on Wednesday, February 23rd at 1:30 PM. Next month, it will return to the usual third Wednesday of the month.

*"Look well to the growing edge! All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of the child — life's most dramatic answer to death — this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!"*

– Civil Rights Theologian Howard Thurman

## UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022

Pam Kisor	President
Gail Schultz	Vice-President
Bob Packard	Treasurer
Rene Wiley	Secretary

**Members at Large:**

Taylor Carey and Janet Dunstan

*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.*



## Treasurer News

Bob Packard  
UUCM Treasurer

### Getting to Know our Endowment Fund

A few years ago, I attended my first annual UUCM Business Meeting. I was looking forward to learning about our financial situation, and what I learned that day made me wonder how a community church like ours ever achieves a really strong balance sheet, much less ensures that we will always have enough contributions to cover expenses. Since then, I've been genuinely impressed by the many hearts and hands that come together in giving and in working and living for each other. Member giving has been strong, with everyone doing their part, but to achieve the strength needed to do great things, something else is needed, too. That something is encouraging the very large gifts that are possible for us only through legacy giving, and that is why our Endowment Fund was started several years earlier.

I mentioned the Endowment Fund briefly at the recent January Business Meeting and told you how much money we have there, but time was short, and there was a lot on the agenda. So, I couldn't fully explain how it is set up and how it works. Since we are currently without a Chair for the Endowment Committee, I thought a series of short articles in the Mountain Chalice each month might be of help: discussing the importance of our Endowment, how it works, and how you can participate in building something of lasting value here at UUCM. It could offer peace of mind for you in a way that will not impact your personal budget. Be on the lookout.



## Renewal Leave



### UUCM Renewal Leave/Sabbatical Planning Committee

By George Dunstan, RL/SP Committee Member

By now you have likely heard about Rev. Kevin's upcoming renewal leave starting next fall. With the Board's approval, he has chosen to divide that important time into two segments, six weeks in the fall, October 3 through November 14, 2022, and 4.5 months the following spring, between January 16 through May 31, 2023. Such leave is used by ministers for spiritual renewal, study, writing, meditation, and other forms of professional and religious growth.

To provide seamless coverage for ministerial services the Board has gathered the Renewal Leave/Sabbatical Planning Committee. Our committee is charged with identifying the needs of the community relative to the Minister's Renewal Leave, planning for how those needs will be met, and offering a plan for how oversight will be provided.

Rev. Kevin and Board president Pam Kisor wrote a letter announcing Rev. Kevin's upcoming leave that you can find here (<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/2022-renewal-leave-announcement/>) It contains more details about the renewal leave and includes the Sabbatical Leave section of the Letter of Agreement between UUCM and Rev. Kevin.

We are evaluating the results of the recent input survey and will be sharing them with you soon. Thanks to all those who participated in helping us identify the needs we will be working to address. Look for further communications from our committee in the coming weeks and months.

Your Renewal Leave/Sabbatical Planning Committee,  
Gail Johnson Vaughan  
Kern Hildebrand  
Taylor Carey (Board Liaison)  
George Dunstan



## Stewardship

Maryann Currington,  
Chair, Stewardship Team

### Winter Online Auction Launching!

"The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow," our online winter auction, is here! Get ready to start bidding on **FEBRUARY 5** and continue to bid until **FEBRUARY 12**. There are wonderful offerings that range from the practical to fantastical. Would you like a boating adventure or, perhaps, a beautiful dinner to share with UU friends? Maybe an exciting hike appeals to you or a more educational experience such as knitting or woodwind lessons! You'll find baked goods and all types of treasures donated by our generous members. Bidding is easy using your credit card. And one of the best parts of this fun? You are supporting our beloved UUCM.

Look for the "The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow" email and let the bidding begin!

If you have any questions contact Lesley Champlin, [lesleyp723@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleyp723@hotmail.com) or Susan Merrill, [merrills@comcast.net](mailto:merrills@comcast.net).

*With our love,*

*The Stewardship Team*



## Pass the Plate

Each month, UUCM partners with a local organization that is working to create a more just, equitable, compassionate and sustainable world.

Thanks to UUCM members and friends who made donations in December, [Hospitality House](#) will receive \$890 to support its work offering shelter, sustenance, medical care, advocacy, opportunity, dignity, and hope as we assist them in transitioning from homelessness to housing.

We are currently completing January collections for [Sierra Roots](#) which takes a relationship-based approach in its work with homeless people, and is dedicated to listening to homeless people and collaborating with them to make progress in their health, self-reliance, and action plans for secure, safe homes.



Our February partner is [Kare Crisis Nursery](#), which provides safe, nurturing care for the small children of families experiencing a stressful situation - needed now more than ever.

*Our partners tell us what a genuine difference our collective donations make. Thank you for giving so generously.*

### Please Help with our KARE Crisis Nursery Special Collection of Most Needed Items Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

Yes, we'll be collecting financial donations to KARE Crisis Nursery in February, AND we'll be collecting some of their wish list, most-needed items. Tangible contributions like this help embody our commitment to serve others. Plus, we get to help our young members experience the act of giving in a very visible and understandable way.

You may drop off the following items at UUCM weekdays 9:00-Noon, or bring them on Sunday mornings. On February 27, we'll take a special offering within the service itself, gathering up the items people bring that day, and joining them with the items already collected. We encourage you to buy and to bring:

- Kleenex • Toilet Paper • Paper Towels
  - Batteries (sizes AA, AAA & C)
  - Juice (100% please)
  - String Cheese
- (put in UUCM fridge, or ask that it be put there)*



## Parish Care

Gwen Eymann  
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team

By Jenny Dewey, Member, UUCM Parish Caring Team

The origin of the word February comes from Februa, the Roman festival of purification. If we went into the streets and celebrated the month of February based on its true meaning we'd dance Covid away. We'd swill lemonade (or something stronger) and call out: "We've had enough!"

What a great idea this is, and how impossible as we look at the fresh wave of cases across the world. Throughout history pandemics have created mistrust in once trusted systems and beliefs, not to mention conspiracy theories, and the deep fear an evil ether is floating around us in the air.

Our UUCM community has shown tremendous resilience. We are a diverse group, but this diversity has not impacted our communal agreements around this persistent virus. We long for relief from it while realizing waiting it out is our only option. Some of our members need special consideration. Many are compromised physically or emotionally. The Parish Care Team stands ready to provide assistance on many levels. The impact of the Team's mission carries beyond its members.

Our group follows Covid safety rules. Our Team reaches out in every possible way given the necessity of following these rules. Consider joining us. The work load is minimal and "satisfaction guaranteed." We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM. Our meetings last about an hour. The team delivers meals, visits (when permitted), check-ins for people dealing with crisis alone, and more.

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

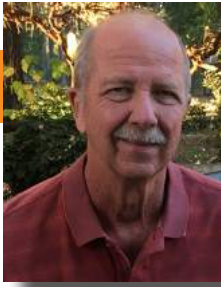
### ARE YOU FACING A CHALLENGE IN YOUR LIFE?

Please reach out to Rev. Kevin ([minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or (231) 883-1058) or Tom Wernigg ([tomwernigg@gmail.com](mailto: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.





## B & G Team

Wally Holtan  
Chair, Building & Grounds Team

Welcome to the new year. Our first workday of the year was held on a beautiful warm day and attended by nine great volunteers.

Our main goal was to clean up after the major snow storm that we had during the end of December. Thanks go out to the City of Grass Valley for picking up all of our storm debris from the street. I am very grateful for that service.

George, Theresa, Gwen, Lisa Haden and Paul did the main outside cleanup, trimming, and cleaning the roof of debris from the last storm. Inside, we had Gary Kisor and Keith vacuuming and cleaning the chairs, cleaning Carol's office, and some additional vacuuming that needed to be done.

Paul Elias also repaired the outside night light leading into the main door. Thank you to Joel for getting our sign lights working again. It was an efficient and fun workday, made even more special by being able to interact with people in person, of course done so with caution due to the Omicron variant. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered. We always welcome new people to the work days. It's a great way to meet new people and keep our UUCM home in shape. Hope to see you next month.

-Wally



## Art & Aesthetics

Robin Hart, Chair,  
Art & Aesthetics Team

The Art & Aesthetics team sends out their heartfelt condolences to team member Phil Horning and his family after the recent death of his wife Linda.

The team met on zoom in January to continue to discuss options for the church back yard. However the project will be on hold until Phil Horning feels up to resuming work on it.

With the church opening back up to the congregation, we will be working on some interior projects over the next months. Shanti Emerson and Linda Siska will continue to do the center of interest for the altar area in the sanctuary and work with Worship on a new project for later this month.

*Take care and keep a rainbow in your hearts!*

- Robin

## Online Giving & More

### HERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO GIVE TO UUCM...

- If you do online banking, you can set up your UUCM Pledge as a monthly "bill" and then relax...your bank will automatically send a check out on the date(s) you specify. 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](https://paypal.me/uucm) (Please leave a note as to whether your offering is for your pledge, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- For a general offering donation, you may text your amount to 833-579-0483. 25% will automatically go to our Pass-the-Plate partner.

Please email with any questions concerning your Pledge. [murrington1944@gmail.com](mailto:murrington1944@gmail.com).

# A Wanderer and a Believer

A Profile of Carmen Riley by Jenny Dewey

Shy and forthcoming, smiling openly and hanging in the back of the room, easily identified by her vivid vintage wardrobe, yet often withdrawn from a crowd, Carmen Riley is well described as a wanderer and a believer.

Carmen has Native American ancestry on her mother's side. Her mother never acknowledged the connection. The word was: "Indian? Do you see any Indians around here?" When first knowing Carmen there is no indication, no external evidence, of her deep commitment to Native American history, culture, and artistry. Then it becomes clear: Carmen has a deep, personal bond with Indigenous people.

This is the Believer.

Carmen is a genius with beading, wire-wrapping stones and gems, making "spirit dolls," and turning gnarly tree branches into unique walking sticks. In a shy, subtle way, Carmen connects to her Native American heritage with her art.

Carmen's father was a career military man; he started the first Air Force training survival school and prior to retirement took part in three wars. Her mother yearned for a traditional little girl in pink dresses with ruffles. These dreams dissolved as her daughter grew into a tomboy wearing pants to school and collecting frogs.

Church was a form of torture. She was not a child who took to sitting still. The sermon was a river of meaningless words. Time crept with agonizing slowness. Her mother's conversion to the LDS church caused greater frustration, a desire to kick and scream as she was obliged to attend services.

And so, the Wanderer was hatched.

A passionate desire to own her own horse was a consistent theme in Carmen's life. Carmen would one day have her own horse.

The little girl was as devoted to her first horse as one is devoted to a newborn. Zan was her beloved personal possession, the door to freedom from her mother's expectations. Inevitably time with Zan took precedence over attending church.

As an adult Carmen experienced a brief introduction to the UU community. This first visit did not "take." The death and a memorial service of a personal acquaintance led to a second visit, and to reconsidering what the UU church had to offer.

The Wanderer was looking for a spiritual home. The Believer was ready to take on the responsibility of believing.

Carmen began to attend UUCM. "I was painfully shy in the beginning," she says.

Several people recognized her shyness and stepped forward to welcome her. Kevin's sermons provided an "underlying spiritual aspect." She was attracted to how people of diverse spiritual pathways were encouraged to join together under one roof.

The UUCM community has created a safe place for Carmen to thrive. There is room for everyone, even a little girl who wanted to be a boy, who demanded to ride horses instead of playing the piano, and who refused to go to church.





## Justice Team News

By Bob Miller, Co-Chair, Justice Team

Last month three task forces were renewed and one was terminated. Let's see where the task forces have been and where they are going.

The old **Challenging White Privilege Task Force** was renewed – but with a new name and a new focus. CWP's goal was to promote antiracism through an understanding of white supremacy and systemic racism. Armed with the knowledge gained from reading several antiracism books and listening to the podcast series "Seeing White" and "The 1619 Project", CWP members conducted a UUCM workshop, completed a UUCM survey of racial attitudes, and created a library of reference materials. The group also accepted Color Me Human's invitation to help with the Juneteenth celebration.

With this work successfully accomplished, the task force decided to alter course: the new perspective is reflected in the new name – the **Voting Rights and Dismantling Racism Task Force**. The group's objectives are threefold: Support BIPOC organizations, lobby the congregation to adopt the UUA's 8th Principle to dismantle racism, and advocate for voting rights. Stay tuned for more information about how you can help the task force reach its goals. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Keith Johnson or Lindsay Dunckel.

**The Nisenan Task Force** was also renewed and task force members are excited about continuing their work to understand the Nisenan's historical truth and help the tribe restore federal recognition. Last year the group helped fund the California Heritage Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) and the Ancestral Homelands Reciprocity Program (AHRP). With UUCM's weekly land acknowledgment and events such as the Indigenous Peoples Day service, awareness and knowledge of the Nisenan within the congregation and community has grown substantially.

A focus of the **Nisenan Task Force** this year will be education. A foothills Nisenan history presentation is planned, as well as a book group featuring Nisenan tribal leader Richard Johnson, author of *This is Us*. Watch for the show dates for the film [From Wounded Knee to Standing Rock](#), as well as short films on YouTube produced by local Nisenan members. If you would like to join the Nisenan task force contact Carmen Riley or Holly Rice.

The Justice Team has approved a proposal to terminate the **Carbon Dividend Task Force**. During its two years of existence the task force accomplished much grass roots lobbying in support of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. UUCM has officially endorsed the act. We thank those who supported our tabling efforts at the Grass Valley Thursday Market, the Nevada City Farmers' Market and at many other events. We generated hundreds of constituent letters at these

tabling events. Thanks are also due to those who built the SHOE. It won a prize in the 4th of July Parade. Many of you are displaying Citizens Climate Lobby yard signs. We distributed around 50 signs in Grass Valley and Nevada City.



Although the task force has terminated, members can still be active in lobbying for a price on carbon by participating in the local chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby. The SHOE is safely stored for the winter in Christy's barn. We expect to see it on the road again this spring. Yard signs are still available.

## STOP THE MINE TASK FORCE HEATS UP!

By Jim Bair, Leader, Stop the Mine Task Force

We are still vibrating from the excellent energy at the Sunday service letter table January 16, 2022. We provided four different "form" letters to County officials, an instructional information sheet, 500 envelopes with address labels, and even some stamps at the table. Special thanks to Martha, Steve, Robin and Reine. We plan to keep the table there until all Members who want to have sent and handed out letters.

- While the letter writing campaign is in full swing, we also plan to study the DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) and comment on specific parts of it. Comments on the DEIR should be coordinated so we can get broad coverage and provide unique comments. The County does not like repetition of technical points; on the contrary, they like knowing if we are for or against the project which is what our "formatted letters" do. Some of us have already signed up to comment on a DEIR section, e.g., Marion Blair for biological impacts. Comments on the DEIR are due March 4. Here's some advice from our partner, MineWatch: <https://www.minewatchnc.org/post/take-action-draft-environmental-impact-report>
- We also are getting ready to review the County's Economic Study, and note the exorbitant and deceptive claims by the Mine CEO, Ben Mossman.

# Justice News and Activities



Steve Temple and Jim Bair at the Stop the Mine Task Force table

- We need to get everyone who can possibly come to the Planning Commission Special Meeting on Wednesday, February 23, at 9:30 AM at the Rood Center. Any of us can speak for two minutes following their protocols, BUT your comments should be written if you want them in the record – they can be handed in at the time you speak. The County counts attendees and assured me at my last visit they really want our attendance, letters and comments.
- We are also drafting personal letters to the Planning Commission and then the Board of Supervisors on behalf of UUCM. It helps if we meet with them personally as we did with Supervisor Dan Miller and Grass Valley City Council Member Bob Branstrom.

Our next Task Force meeting is Monday, January 24, at 4:00 PM.

Onward together!  
-Jim

## INTERFAITH FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE

By Anne Lyon

IFM thanks everyone for their support, positive attitudes and on site help! Despite cold temperatures, volunteers still distribute food outside, masked and socially-distanced.

IFM is preparing for a big March fundraiser and is asking for match donors. Please give Naomi Cabral a call at 530-870-0177 if interested. They will also need volunteer envelope stuffers for this event in February. Also still needed are volunteers to help on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 to 11:00 AM.

Many thanks again for all you do. Stay healthy and safe, with our good wishes.



As told to Bernell Scott, Justice Team Member by Gwen Eymann

Gwen has been at UUCM since 2004 and has served on the Care team in some capacity since 2005. May Lawrence and Maybell Church lured her in. She worked at Hospitality House for years doing dinners once a month since they opened Utah's Place, and before that she prepared meals for them at the Methodist Church when UUCM was the clearing center. Gwen worked for 20 years at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital as a Nurse Practitioner in the Maternity Health Center serving low income women during their pregnancy and postpartum period. It was the best job she could ever imagine. Gwen is now working one afternoon a month with fellow UUCM folks at Interfaith Food Ministry (IFM).

UUCM gives Gwen an opportunity to serve the greater community. The values she holds dear are connected to our eight principles, and serving as a UUCM team player makes her proud to be a member. **Thank you to Gwen for all you do!**

### IFM SEEKING A DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR!

IFM has a paid job opening for Development Director. For more information on the position and how to apply, click this link: [Development Director Position](#)

# 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](mailto:uucmOnline@uugrassvalley.org)

**SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:30 VIA ZOOM OR ON-SITE  
FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDEES**

*Watch UUGeneral and/or eChalice for a link to reserve your space. Masks and social-distancing protocols will be observed.*



### SUNDAY DROP-IN SUPPORT CIRCLE - 12:00 PM

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](mailto:SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org)

### HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 11:00 AM

The UUCM Humanist Discussion group will meet via Zoom. Here's the link to join us: [Humanist Zoom Meeting](#)



Our topic for February is "Should we prioritize medical treatment for people who are vaccinated over unvaccinated?"

I came across this topic while listening to a podcast from the Skeptic's Guide to the Universe and that discussion can be found in this episode in the segment that runs from 8:33 to 29:25 minutes: [Skeptics Guide](#)

There is a published article at the Science Based Medicine site titled "Treating the Unvaccinated" written by the same person who leads the podcast discussion and here's the link to that article: [Treating the Unvaccinated](#)

And here is a current situation where the moral and ethical questions posed by this question played out: [Stabber Now Pig Heart Transplant Recipient](#)

See you on February 2nd for another interesting discussion. To be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan: [Humanism@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Humanism@uugrassvalley.org)

### WALKING GROUP

Tuesdays: Wolf Creek Trail, meet at the Northstar Mine Parking Lot, 8:30 AM. Thursdays: meet at 418 Chapel St, GV at 8:30 AM for local walk with outdoor social time afterward. Well-behaved, leashed dogs welcome. Please contact Theresa Houtman at [Walking@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Walking@uugrassvalley.org) to get on the list.

### 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. If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please send an email to Carol Fulkerson at: [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) and she will add you. You'll get monthly updates and reminders of our upcoming meetings.

### MEN'S GROUPS - VIA ZOOM

Men gather to enjoy each others' company. Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 AM, and/or Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Contact for either group: [mensgroup@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:mensgroup@uugrassvalley.org)

Family Ministry offers many ways to serve the life of the community.

Contact Jo Waters if you'd like to find out more! [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org) OR [jowaters@hotmail.com](mailto:jowaters@hotmail.com)

**February: Widening the Circle**

By Jo Waters, Chair, UUCM Family Ministry

Well, my January was not quite as restful as I had envisioned. Hopefully February will be better. Our theme this month is **Widening the Circle** which relates to systemic racism and white supremacy culture. Despite this somewhat scary description, **Widening the Circle** is really all about love—learning to include more and more people into our circle of love and Beloved Community. And February is a good month to talk about love, right?

On **Sunday, February 6 at 10:30 AM**, we will gather upstairs at UUCM to create a home chalice out of air-dry clay. Our goal is to help you create a home altar space in which to affirm and promote our UU values.

On **Sunday, February 27** there will be an All Ages Service designed by our very own Lindsay Dunckel in collaboration with the Worship Team. All young people are invited to attend the service that day at 10:30 at UUCM.

In other news, **OWL trainings are available again!** Our goal this year is to send one (or preferably two) more people to be trained to teach 7th-9th graders so we can offer our young people the opportunity to attend an OWL class in the fall. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact me or Reverend Kevin. We have funds set aside for registration and possibly travel if there is an in-person training available.



**Sunday Book Group**

**UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP - ONE SUNDAY A MONTH AT 1:00 PM AS LISTED**

**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 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](mailto:BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org) if you have any questions, or wish to be added to the email list.

## February Soul Matters:

### WIDENING THE CIRCLE

Is it possible that  
being on the inside  
leaves you out of the loop?  
What if the margins  
aren't narrow?  
What if that space of exclusion  
is also a position of perspective?  
What if being shut out  
allows you to understand the  
insiders  
better than they understand  
themselves?

Why do so many seek the safety  
of that inner circle anyway?  
Don't we know that the circles  
not only keep others out  
but also the air?  
Haven't we learned that  
it's on the edge of circles  
that hate makes its home?  
So even if you weren't among the ones  
who put the circle in place,  
by allowing it to linger,  
don't you carry the burden  
of responsibility as well?

What if who we are  
doesn't end at the barriers  
of our own skin?  
What if sin is believing  
that you can put the puzzle together  
with only the pieces that belong to you?  
What if heaven is the moment you realize  
that none of us can get there alone?  
What if the only true freedom  
lies in the willingness to  
fight against that which imprisons  
someone else?

And what if all these questions  
are a matter of life and death?

Or is it a matter of dying to live?

After all, didn't the Nazarene say  
we must lose our life in order to  
find it?

Haven't all the sages said the  
solitary self  
must perish for the larger  
we to live?

If that is true  
then let's widen the circle  
until it breaks!

For as long as the circle exists  
pieces and parts of ourselves  
will always lie on the other side  
of the line.



So let us push, pull,  
twist and tear,  
dig underneath  
and climb over the top,  
do whatever it takes to meet each other  
face to face.  
And having found each other,  
let us stare  
and struggle,  
fight and forgive,  
call in and call out,  
until "me" and "you"  
dissolves into "us."

Is there any other way we become whole?

## UPCOMING SOUL MATTERS THEMES FOR 2022

February: Widening the Circle  
March: Renewing Faith  
April: Awakening  
May: Nurturing Beauty  
June: Celebrating Blessings

# February 2022 Calendar of Events at UUCM

## DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

### FEBRUARY 2022

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

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
1	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
2	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		11:00 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		6:00 PM	Worship Team Meeting
3	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
5	Saturday		2022 Winter Auction Begins
6	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:30 AM	Kids' Connection
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Sunday Book Group
		7:00 PM	Choir
8	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
9	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
10	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		2:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
12	Saturday		2022 Winter Auction Ends
13	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Spirituality Circle Conversation on "Grief"
		7:00 PM	Choir

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
14	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
15	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
16	Wednesday	5:00 PM	Justice Team Meeting
17	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
19	Saturday	8:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Party
20	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Sunday Book Group
		7:00 PM	Choir
22	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
23	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		1:30 PM	Open Board of Trustees Mtg
24	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
26	Saturday		Congregation Visioning Workshop (Watch for Details)
27	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
			Congregation Visioning Workshop (Watch for Details)



## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Telephone: 530.274.1675      Website: [uugrassvalley.org](http://uugrassvalley.org)

**Sunday Services are held at 10:30 AM by Zoom or on-site for a limited number of people – reservations required!**

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

### Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

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

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

### UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

[minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

[admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org)

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530.274.1675

530.274.1675

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

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

**[MtChalice@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:MtChalice@uugrassvalley.org)**

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

### VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS:

*Kathy MacLeod, Editing, and Kathryn Young, Design/Layout*

*Staff Contributors: Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Carol Fulkerson*