

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

January 2022

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are at 9:30 AM via Zoom,
and on-site, by registration, OR
11:30 AM on-site only, by registration

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 11 for Kid-Centered Activities ••

JANUARY THEME: Living with Intention

January 2 Cider Sunday
Gail Johnson Vaughan and Cheryl Morris,
Co-Worship Associates

The heart of our traditional Cider Sunday is a chance to each share what we see as we look back across this year and ahead to next. This year the pandemic is giving us a creative opportunity to continue the tradition. Take your choice of three ways to participate: 1) Join us in the UUCM sanctuary @ 9:30 AM or 11:30 AM, 2) join us online at 9:30 AM and/or 3) participate in an informal Cider Sunday circle at UUCM with Anita Wald Tuttle at 2:30 PM. The attendance at UUCM services will be limited to provide the small group that brings out the best in Cider Sunday so be sure to register for your service of choice ASAP. Online participants will enjoy small breakout groups for their sharing.

And oh, BTW... no cider or cookies until Covid risk goes down. Guess we should call this year's services "No Cider" Sunday. See you there!

January 9 Living the Talk
Tor Erickson, Libby Woods, and Rev. Kevin Tarsa
Cheryl Morris, Worship Associate with Gail
Johnson Vaughan

The Nevada County Left Coalition provides a mutual aid distribution of food, care packages, supplies, and winter clothing. UUCM has been hosting their drop-in distribution site on Saturday mornings in

the warmer, drier months. StreetCare is envisioned as "a community-based crisis response team with the goal of supporting folks and de-escalating crisis situations without state violence or other oppressive interventions that often cause situations to escalate." As we consider our own intentional living, hear the vision and the passion of two local young adults who are working to offer direct support to those in need in our community.

January 16 We Have a Dream
Gail Johnson Vaughan and Cheryl Morris,
co-worship associates,
with Special Guest Tracy Pepper,
Color Me Human executive director

Inequality and injustice hurts us all. Martin Luther King Jr had a dream that one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls would be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. There is still so much work to do. Join us as we

...Service Descriptions continued on Page 3

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Our January theme of “Living with Intention” is, of course, a perennial theme. It is also a particularly relevant theme for this moment at the turning of the year and the turning in our extended journey within the pandemic. If ever an experience invited us to live more intentionally...

I know from my conversations with you that many of you are asking yourself whether it might be best to live closer to family, or to live where fire dangers aren't so prominent, or to simply accept the uncertain nature of life and to remain where you have strong connections and landscapes that feed your spirit. I know you are in the process of discerning what matters most to you now.

As we turn this annual corner with such big questions in our hearts, we'll once again invite you to choose a word for the year rather than a new year's resolution – a word to travel with, to be in conversation with, to dance and wrestle with. Or maybe this year, it's not a word, but a question you are feeling drawn to keep with you as your travel companion and conversation partner. The word or question is not meant to take you quickly to final answers, but rather to help you stay open and attentive to what is arising in your life and in your world.

Each week we'll be encouraging you to reflect on your potential word or question, even as we invite you to discern the intention that is calling to you, and on January 23 we'll invite you to share the word or question you've chosen, or the word or question that has chosen you.

My word for 2021 has been “release,” and oh, has the year invited letting go! Most of the year this has meant prying my gripping fingers away from expectations or certainties that I've been trying to hold onto – about life, about the nation, about myself, about religious community, about the future... It's only here at the very end of the year that my stubborn self has been denied enough times the chance to try to control things, that I've finally reached the point of surrender.

Okay, of at least *some* surrender.

I don't know what my word will be for 2022, but I will be entering 2022 from a place of more pragmatic and necessary

release, and I want to travel with a word or a question that will help me stay honest and present to the moment, even as it opens up my awareness of what's to come.

To assist your own discernment, we'll be inviting you into the spiritual practices offered in the Soul Matters material. First this one, rooted in the idea that your deepest self already knows your core intention.



It is a set of uncompleted sentences. Access and/or download the sentences [HERE](#), and engage them with this guidance from the Soul Matters authors:

Fill them in, then step back and see if you notice any patterns or surprises in them. When filling in the blanks, trust your instincts. In other words, don't spend a lot of time pondering what to put in the blank. Instead just write down the first or second thing that pops in your head. Think of it as a Rorschach test on intention.

After you complete the sentences use these questions to help you reflect on the answers you wrote in the blanks:

- *What would you change after giving the completed sentences a second look?*
- *What surprises you?*
- *Would your closest friend or partner agree with how you filled in the blanks? (Maybe even ask them!) What two or three sentences seem to merit your greatest attention right now?*
- *What single intention are you ready to make based on listening deeply to what the list of completed sentences is trying to tell you?*

Welcome to the new year, the new day, the uncertain and powerfully open path into the future.

with care,

– Rev. Kevin

From the Minister

Seeking spiritual sustenance? Spiritual growth? Spiritual companions?

Join us for our new



Sunday, January 8, 3:00-4:30 PM,

at UUCM (virus permitting) as well as on-line via Zoom.

As UUCM's minister, I am charged, first and foremost, with offering "spiritual leadership and initiative." My conscious spiritual leadership and initiative is focused most often through Sunday services, especially during the past year and a half.

Spirituality Sharing Circle - That's my own descriptive name for the wonderful circle of people who gathered outdoors at UUCM as well as on-line to explore options for pursuing more in-depth spiritual growth, sustenance, and companionship. The gathering was initiated by the call for opportunities to dig in more deeply and more explicitly, to explore personal spiritual growing edges and spiritual sources of sustenance, and for the chance to do so without needing to defend the word "spiritual" or one's personal spirituality to others.

Our original rich conversation led to this next gathering, for which participants are invited to bring and to share a reading, prayer, poem, or set of words, etc. that they find spiritually meaningful and moving.

If this kind of gathering matches you and your interest, please join in. Watch the eChalice for the link, or check your email if you are already on the mailing list for this circle. If you are not currently on the list receiving emails about this, and would like to be, please contact the office or me: minister@uugrassvalley.org

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



UPCOMING SERVICES

Continued from Page 1...

give voice to the dream we ourselves hold that our nation must and will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

January 23 What's the Word?

Rev. Kevin Tarsa
Cheryl Morris, Worship Associate,
with Gail Johnson Vaughan

All month long we'll be inviting you to consider your word for the new year – a word to travel with, to put under your pillow, to eat breakfast with, to dance, wrestle, and cavort with. A word to keep near your heart all year long. This Sunday, we'll ask you to choose and share your word as part of your own effort to live with intention.

January 30 I do. We do.

Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Consultant Kay Crider engages members of the congregation this week as part of the process of figuring out next steps in UUCM's journey with its facilities. We'll hear briefly from Kay in the services and will host a community conversation with her afterward. Meanwhile, we'll focus on the promises at the heart of creating community such as this and at the heart of finding the way forward.

Board of Trustees



*Pam Kisor, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope this Newsletter finds you safe, healthy and ready for whatever 2022 brings. We have certainly had more than our share of practice at accepting uncertainty this past year, and we will probably experience more uncertainty as the new year progresses. But hopefully we will support each other in finding our footing as we traverse 2022.

As we move into the new year the Board has three major areas of focus: preparing for Kevin's renewal leave/sabbatical; moving further into facility exploration and planning; and developing opportunities for volunteers to grow in their leadership and involvement in the life of UUCM.

The first part of Kevin's renewal leave will be taking place later this fall, and the second part will happen one year from now. You will be hearing from the Sabbatical Committee this month as they send out a survey to assess the community's priorities and needs while our Minister is away. This time of renewal is both a challenge and an opportunity for UUCM. We will have the challenge of providing for the many services our dear Rev. Kevin usually provides, and the opportunity of discovering our strengths and adaptability in his absence. We will be stronger for the experience, as will Kevin, who will return to us well-rested, renewed and with a refreshed spirit.

The Facility Exploration Committee will be sharing the results of their recent UUCM survey later in this newsletter. They will also be providing notice of the much anticipated "Next Steps Weekend" on Sunday, January 30th. At this meeting we will have the opportunity to hear from the Congregational Stewardship Consultant and discuss possibilities for UUCM's building. This will be a timely meeting and I hope many of you will be able to join the discussion.

And finally, as we strive to staff our Committees, and look ahead to what will be needed for Kevin's sabbatical, we will be exploring new pathways to encourage, support and promote volunteerism within UUCM. I will have more to share on this in future articles. For now, it is enough to say that opportunities for growth through volunteerism are available to us all.

This month the Board will be holding our mid-year Community Business Meeting via Zoom (Sunday, January 23). This meeting provides an overview of both Governance and Ministerial accomplishments as well as a detailed financial report and budget projection for the current fiscal year. We will also be voting on the renewal of each Justice Task Force. This is an important meeting that will give a good overview of the operation of UUCM and I hope you will be able to Zoom-in for the event.

For 2022 I offer this familiar blessing:

*May you be filled with loving kindness.
May you be well.
May you be peaceful and at ease.
May you be whole.*

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.



Parish Care

Gwen Eymann
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team

By Jenny Dewey, Member, UUCM Caring Team

December was a month to consider an opening to joy. Several people told me they could not easily "tie into" the word joy. The words "relief" and "happiness" and "gladness" were said to be easier to relate to. By the end of the month opinions had shifted. Was it "The Ode to Joy" we heard in one of our services? Was it Reverend Kevin's thoughtful words? Was it Karen Packard's prayer?

In my mind it was all of the above.

In January some say we are in "the dead of winter." Winter is not dead. Winter is green with evergreens and wreaths and resolutions. Winter is a time for reflection. I think of pioneers who kept busy on frigid winter days mending harness and leather boots. Some brought their livestock in from the cold, keeping them in rooms adjacent to their living quarters: cows and sheep and goats and chickens.

Our congregation deals (patiently) with Covid and Covid variants. Yearning for normalcy is rife among us. Yet like winter's early darkness and cold temperatures, we face the challenges. There are always challenges to face.

Consider joining the Parish Caring Team as a way to express your concerns and compassion for members of our congregation undergoing difficulties, everything from broken legs to loneliness. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM. The team is never without people in need of support, from meals to phone calls to the act of simply 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 December with Rev. Kevin to go over the final draft that Phil Horning has drawn up for the church back yard project and Phil will be coming up with a cost estimate for materials and labor. This will be presented to the board when it is complete after the 1st of the year.

Shanti Emerson looked into estate sales for tables, chairs and benches and came up with some reasonable costs.

With the church opening back up to the congregation, we will be working on some interior projects over the next months.

Take care and keep a rainbow in your hearts!

- Robin



Stewardship

Maryann Currington,
Chair, Stewardship Team

Optimism for 2022

The Stewardship/Fundraising Team is resilient and determined! Our theme, "The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow" expresses our optimism. We began planning an online, and potentially an in-person, auction that would bring us the joy of togetherness. How eagerly we began the process, even using new auction software! But we realized that time was not on our side with the holidays looming, and we postponed the auction. Undaunted, we pursued the new process to make online payments possible and the auction is back on track to start February 5, 2022.

Mark your calendars with these dates:

- February 5 - the online auction begins,
- February 12 - the auction closes.

Start thinking of what you can donate now! You can schedule your events or services well into 2022. Can you offer an event or dinner at your house? Remember Game Nights and guided hikes? Or maybe you can provide a service or homemade baked goods? Possibly, you have a gift quality item hiding in your closet that you'd like to donate. Stewardship is taking your donations listings now. Please provide us with:

- a description of what you can offer
- a picture, if available
- the value of your donation
- a reasonable starting bid for your item/event/service
- if you are offering an event like a hike or a dinner, include the maximum number of attendees accepted

Send your submission to Lin Jovanovic at linmosaic@yahoo.com. Watch your email and the eChalice for more information on the online auction.

We've faced down Covid over the nearly two years since it began, and we know how to be as safe as we can be. Bring back some of the good times—safely—and plan those auction-worthy events and help make the sun come out tomorrow.

With our love,

The Stewardship Team



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.

Please email with any questions concerning your Pledge. murrington1944@gmail.com.

Tom Wernigg, *The Invisible Man*

by Jenny Dewey



"I used to be invisible. It was my super-power..."

The words come from Tom Wernigg, a man who has spent much of his life determined to be unseen, to be invisible.

Those who know Tom are aware of his shyness and self-effacement. When I told him I wanted to write a profile on him his immediate reaction was: Why me? I myself wondered what drew me to want to write about him. He is a musician, a skilled song-writer and singer, a compassionate man who engages himself deeply in helping others. He is a husband, a father, and a well-loved, respected member of the UUCM community. These are fine traits and admirable characteristics, but what makes anyone described this way unique?

The answer is in how Tom's humanity is a reflection not only of himself, but all of us humans trying to find a balance between what we know of ourselves and what we let others know.

Invisibility is protection from vulnerability, and this is something Tom knows well, and so do we all.

Tom's relationship with invisibility started when he was a boy. On the surface his upbringing was not especially unique. It was the inner dynamic of his family that gave him an intense and long-lasting need to remain unseen.

As with most families, there were leaders, followers, and those who struggled to navigate between opposing forces. When Tom was growing up he was adored by his father and bullied by an elder brother. Tom's job was to find his spot between the one and the other. Tom embraced a survival strategy that kept him out of sight. Or so he believed

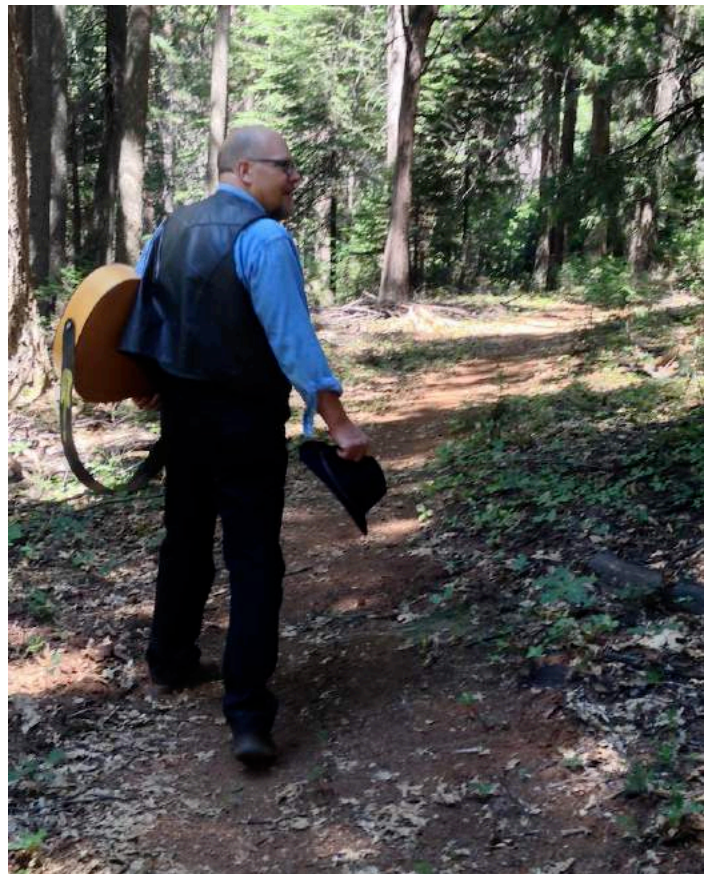
Tom's emergence from a determination to stay hidden is far from simple. It has been a process of yielding to what

is the best in himself: his dedication to helping others, his commitment to the UUCM church, his music, and his singing and song-writing. Tom has discovered himself to be worthy of being seen.

The UUCM community is blessed to have Tom as a member. He is recognized as someone who understands, embraces, and lives the Principles of Unitarianism. He is guided by what the Principles mean in the real world.

Tom is open about having a disorder called "Bipolar Type 2." He is aware mental illness is perceived differently from other illness. We are not far removed from the mediaeval idea mentally ill people ought to be stashed away in asylums never to be seen again

Tom's openness about his Bipolar Disorder is another feature making him unique. Hiding in secrecy is no longer his survival strategy. On the contrary, every time he sings and plays his guitar or violin in front of the congregation he is making a statement about visibility. His willingness to step up and step forward sets an example for us all.



Justice Team News

By Keith Johnson, Co-Chair, Justice Team

The Congregational Business Meeting on January 23 will be important for the future of justice at UUCM. At this meeting we will decide whether to renew or terminate our justice task forces.

According to the Justice Policy established by the Board, each task force may apply for annual renewal by submitting a revised petition and strategic plan to the Justice Team. These documents will outline the progress already made and the remaining objectives to be accomplished. If the Justice Team recommends renewal of a task force, the matter will be placed on the agenda for the Congregational Business Meeting for a final decision by the congregation.

It is anticipated that the Justice Team will recommend renewal of the Stop the Mine Task Force and the Nisenan Task Force. The future of the Challenging White Privilege Task Force and the Carbon Dividend Task Force is less clear. At this writing members of the CWP Task Force are searching for a leader to help formulate new strategies and tactics if the task force moves forward. If you are interested in CWP and would like to participate in this process please contact Rev Kevin.

The Carbon Dividend Task Force may or may not apply for renewal. The group has been very successful in advocating for carbon pricing at the federal level. Tactics included tabling at many local venues, the sale of yard signs, construction of "The Shoe", and partnering with Citizens Climate Lobby. The task force must now decide whether to continue with these efforts or to head in a different direction.

Regardless of the outcome of the Congregational Business Meeting, new task forces are always welcome. Last month I suggested that UUCM may wish to establish a needs assessment task force or a welcome center for the unhoused. Recent events call us to consider a new task force focused on reproductive justice. What do you think?

If you wish to serve on an existing or new task force, please contact me or Bob Miller.



Justice Warrior of the Month: Lang Waters

By Bernell Scott, Justice Team Member

Lang Waters earned a BA in Philosophy from UC San Diego. When in 2005 he was offered the opportunity to work from home, he and his wife, Jo, moved from the Bay Area to Nevada City to raise their family closer to nature. As the children entered high school he sat on the Board of Directors at a local charter school. After they left high school he looked for other ways to be active in the community, such as Nevada County Adult and Family Services Commission. He is now president of Sierra Streams Institute.

It's interesting that the family name of Waters was chosen - not inherited. The annual watershed cleanup has been a family tradition for over 10 years, as has the exploration of local creeks and the Yuba River in the spring. Lang is grateful for the opportunity to participate in and advocate for citizen science and the work done by Sierra Streams Institute.

Thank you, Lang, for all you have done and continue to do to make the world a better place.



IFM sends wishes for a kinder and more joyful 2022 for you! They are hoping for new faces to join the already generous number of volunteers who help them ease food insecurity in our area. IFM appreciates the steady stream of UUCM volunteers who help fill grocery bags, hand bags out, write the many letters of gratitude and thanks they try to send. Right now, IFM still needs more Monday volunteers, anytime between 8:00 and 2:00 PM. Also needed are drivers to pick up supplies from local stores; folks with creative writing skills; people who have knowledge of Microsoft and Excel. Letters will need to be stuffed in February.

Remember: there are discounts for IFM volunteers at Briarpatch. Contact Venus Paxton at: venuspm.IFM@gmail.com

Task Force Updates

STOP THE MINE TASK FORCE: PROGRESS ON TWO FRONTS

By Jim Bair, Leader, Stop the Mine Task Force

Our "STM" Task Force has had its second productive meeting using Zoom. We discussed our strategy and, based on recent communications from the County Staff, we have shifted course a bit. We are now focusing our letter writing efforts on the County Planning Commission and County staff, and deemphasizing the Board of Supervisors for the next six weeks or so. Briefly, the County Staff will review the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and make recommendations to the Planning Commission. With comments and a decision by the Commission, a public Staff will make a presentation of recommendations to the Board of Supervisors – which carries tremendous weight.

I've had success with previous letters to Supervisor Dan Miller who has responded personally in email. They declared UUCM's opposition based on ethical & moral grounds!

The second front is a creative letter writing project based on a national election campaign, Vote Forward. The goal is for the public to customize and send 800 letters to the County using a form letter the Team provides. It's inspired by the letter campaign for the Nisenan Native Americans to get recognition from the County -- more than 600 letters were cited as crucial to a unanimous yes vote by the County Board.

We have also participated in a Justice Table at UUCM which enabled service attendees to sign a public petition against the Mine. More UUCM members signed the petition bringing the total to more than 3000 signers.

Our hero this month is Anita Wald-Tuttle who has personally acquired signatures from over 25 businesses in greater Grass Valley. This CEA (Community Environmental Advocates) program will represent businesses' willing to publicly declare their opposition.

Next efforts include reviewing the Mine's economic impacts, meeting with decision makers (we spoke with Bob Branstrom, Grass Valley City Council, as well as Dan Miller), commenting on the DEIR, recruiting other Communities of Faith, reaching out to the public schools, and preparing for a public Forum at UUCM, Covid permitting.

Onward to protect our community.

-Jim

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 November, [Sammie's Friends](#) will receive \$738.75 to support its work offering a safe and caring place for neglected, abandoned, and abused animals to be cared for, rehabilitated when necessary, and adopted as quickly as possible into loving homes. Thank you, as always, everyone, for your generosity!

We are currently completing December collections for [Hospitality House](#), an institution with strong ties to UUCM through Hospitality House founder and past UUCM member Utah Phillips. Utah's Place, as it is also known, offers shelter, sustenance, medical care, advocacy, opportunity, dignity, and hope as we assist them in transitioning from homelessness to housing.

Our January partner is [Sierra Roots](#), which also offers amazing, direct support for houseless persons in this area.

"Sierra Roots takes a relationship-based approach in our work with the homeless. We are dedicated to listening to them and collaborating to make progress in their health, self-reliance, and action plans for secure, safe homes."

Please know that your ongoing support for our pass-the-plate partners allows us to make a meaningful difference together!



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 VIA ZOOM OR ON-SITE BY REGISTRATION, OR 11:30 AM ON-SITE ONLY WITH RESERVATION.

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.



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, JANUARY 5, 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=ZG10YlpXSkrHcDkxaGRSMWV1enVsdz09>



This month we will continue our discussion on abortion focusing on how fetal viability factors in to a pro-choice stance and also a look at the international views toward abortion. Here's a link to a recent Washington Post article about advances in medical support for premature births:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/12/17/premature-birth-viability-abortion/>

See you on January 5th for another interesting discussion. 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, 8:30 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 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

January: Living with Intention

By Jo Waters, Chair, UUCM Family Ministry

Welcome 2022! It's a new year, and I am looking forward to a little rest and relaxation after the hectic holiday season. What a perfect month for our theme of "*Living with Intention*."

On Wednesday, January 12 we will gather to create a home chalice out of air-dry clay. Our goal is to create a home altar space in which to make and refresh our intentions to live in a way that supports our values.

On Wednesday, January 26 we will be making intention bracelets to remind ourselves of what we've decided to do. Please watch the eChalice for details about the place and time of these events.

Attending Services in Person with Children

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.



Sunday Book Group



UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

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

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.

◀ ◀ ◀ Our new Kids Korner has small chairs, assorted toys, books and more to help entertain small people during the in-person services, with their attending adult supervising.

January 2022 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

JANUARY 2022

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

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
1	Saturday		New Year's Day 2022
2	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service (also via Zoom)
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Sunday Book Group
4	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
5	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		10:30 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		4:00 PM	Worship Team Meeting
6	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
8	Saturday	3:00 PM	Spirituality Conversation
9	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service (also via Zoom)
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
10	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Zoom Gathering
11	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
12	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		5:30 PM	Kids Connection Hour
13	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

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
15	Saturday	8:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Party
16	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service (also via Zoom)
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
18	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
19	Wednesday	10:30 AM	Open Board of Trustees Meeting
		5:00 PM	Justice Team Meeting
20	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
23	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service (also via Zoom)
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Congregation Meeting
		7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
25	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
26	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		5:30 PM	Kids Connection Hour
27	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
30	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Service (also via Zoom)
		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Conversation with Facilities Consultant



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 only 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.

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