

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

April 2022

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are at 10:30 AM in person and also via Zoom.

As our County risk for COVID is low, you no longer need to register for services to attend in person. If you are feeling unwell or have been exposed to COVID, please attend online.

Masks are optional, but encouraged for those at high risk for illness.

Should our County's risk level change, this could change.

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 • • •

APRIL THEME: *Awakening*

April 3 **Weaving the Fabric of Community**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with our newest UUCM Members, Cheryl Morris and Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associates

With Daylight Savings Time, morning comes earlier these days, almost to alert us to this month's theme: Awakening. Join us this morning as we Awaken to the Fabric We Weave Together and introduce and welcome new members who have joined UUCM since the beginning of the pandemic.

April 10 **Together We Rise**
Rev. Kevin, with Cheryl Morris and Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associates

There's no better way to awaken than to the aroma of freshly baked bread – warm and delicious with lots of the very best ingredients combined to bring out the best in each. UUCM is like that too. Join us this Sunday to consider how each of us brings our unique selves as a critical ingredient to everything we create together.

April 17 **The Bombshell and the Butterfly**
Rev. Kevin, with Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

In this day and age we don't have to look far for bad news. Stress and anxiety are the constant companions of so many of us. Many know this Sunday as Easter, a season celebrated in so many faiths and religious traditions as a time of resurrection and hope. Join us in a special morning as we too awaken out of what feels like an ending into new life, new hope.

April 24 **From One Seed**
Lindsay Duncel, with Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

On this Sunday before Earth Day, we celebrate creation in song and story, including the work of sustaining it.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Those of you who have been around Unitarian Universalism for a while will know of the Flower Ceremony or “Flower Communion” – a ritual celebrated in many UU congregations in the spring. It was created by Norbert Capek in 1923 for his Unitarian congregation in Prague, Czechoslovakia to embody the beauty and goodness created by bringing our wonderfully varied selves to community and each benefiting from one another’s gifts. Each person brings a cut flower to the service, creating a beautiful bouquet, and then leaves with a different flower.

When I was serving our UU congregation in Beaufort, South Carolina, someone brought a potted plant to the flower ceremony rather than a cut flower – a Lantana. In Michigan, these are special, tender, indoor potted plants, but in South Carolina, there were lantana growing as part of the hedge in my backyard. Since no one else had taken the plant home with them at the end of the service, I brought the plant home as my flower from the ceremony, mused about the difference between a temporary flower and one that would continue to grow while requiring care and attention, and I transplanted it to a larger pot so it would have room to grow.

It gradually filled that pot and bloomed beautifully, with blossoms that turned from yellow to pink to red. I so enjoyed that tropical plant and the spirit behind it, that I brought it with me when I moved to Grass Valley, CA. It continued to grow well here, but Grass Valley has frostier winter evenings than Beaufort, and one early winter night, a cold snap froze it. All the foliage and blossoms fell off, and the stems turned to dry twigs. I watered it, just in case, but there was no sign of life after that, even as other frozen plants sprung back to life eventually. I stuck it in the outside storage closet, with other pots ready for future replanting, and forgot about it.

Lo, and behold, many, many months later, I noticed new shoots rising from the base of those dry stems, now in bone-dry soil. I hadn’t watered it all that time, and yet here it was, beginning from the ground up. Now I know its annual cycle in this colder climate. It dies back once it gets cold, and its green

shoots come up much later than other plants, and only when the seasonal coast is clear.

I had given up on that plant, assuming it to be dead.

Perhaps it’s true in every climate, but certainly in the climes far enough away from the steady heat and daylength of the equator to experience wintry cold, resurrection is not an abstract concept, but an annual reality. We are reminded – surprised and amazed even though we know that it’s coming – that new life can arise out of what seems entirely lifeless.

Our theme of “awakening” arrives just as shared journeying opens up in new ways in the life of the congregation. Re-connection, seeing one another’s faces, and gathering more often and in greater numbers become experiences of tender green shoots. This is a beginning. Evidence of what’s “new” about this awakened life will reveal itself only gradually, as we water and fertilize and otherwise tend this community together over these next months and into these next years. What grows now will be familiar only in some ways, in the deepest ways, probably. And what surprising newness will be born of our collected, awakened selves gathered in the bouquet of this community, remains to be seen and experienced.

As one of our hymns sings, in the words of John Crum, “Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain.

Here’s to invite your nurturing of the shared life that will, in time, bring forth new beauty and new bounty.

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



Board of Trustees

*Pam Kisor, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

"To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don't grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float."
- Alan Watts

I am writing this on the day of the Spring equinox, after enjoying a lovely service by Beth Karow and Lindsay Dunkel at the church. Their service reminded me of the importance of balance - a lesson I deeply need to learn.

April is fast approaching and I am writing my tenth Mountain Chalice article for this year. Each month seems busier than the last and I am beginning to have the feeling that I am falling behind - and definitely out of balance! The Board has just completed our Visioning workshop and now we are on to budgets and goal setting for next year, as well as preparation for the Annual Community Business meeting in May. We are in the midst of opening our doors after two years of limited access due to COVID, and even as I write this article the Next Steps Weekend is taking place at the church. And I know that in the blink of an eye it will be time to prepare for the new board and the work of the next fiscal year! Whew. No wonder I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed.

In the midst of all this activity, I find myself reflecting on my upcoming 50th wedding anniversary. (50 years! How did that happen?) As I reflect on this longer span of time, I see that whether we are thinking about 50 years or 10 years or 10 months, the rhythms of life, love and work are similar. In all things that we commit to (marriage, work, church, family) we have times that are overwhelming, times of accomplishment, times of great joy, times of grief and times of rest and quiet

reflection. We all know this but may still feel overwhelmed when the demand on our time is great. We are coming out of a time of restrictions and moving into a time of "doing." It helps me to remember that there is a rhythm, a pace, to all things. Life is both short and long. If I can relax my grip, let go a bit, and flow with the rhythm it is not so overwhelming after

all. But I am still a practicing human - I have not quite mastered the process yet! Maybe someday...

In the meantime, I hope that we are enjoying every minute of being together as a community. I hope we are "trusting ourselves to the water." We have lost much this past two years, and now we have the chance to be as one again. Let's pace ourselves and see where the journey takes us.

And in the words of Beth Karow -

*"Welcome life,
welcome renewal,
Welcome balance,
welcome Spring."*

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.

Opportunities for Service

Now that we are getting together in person, we have a greater need for people to help out on Sunday mornings. Here are three teams that need to be staffed so we can be the welcoming and cheerful place we were prior to the pandemic. Hopefully you will find a job you will enjoy doing...

Hospitality Team

Be Part of the UUCM Hospitality Team

It's time to start preparing for the post-service Social Hour again, and to re-constitute our Hospitality Team!

WHAT DO HOSPITALITY TEAM MEMBERS DO?

Hospitality Team members help with refreshments after Sunday services, including setup, hosting, and cleanup. The goal is to provide a warm, relaxed, cheerful (and yummy!) atmosphere in which newcomers and members can connect and get to know one another.

As we find our way into new normals, our initial social hours will likely be outside, in front of the building. A recent sampling (Thanks, Scottie, for bringing that warm cider!) was wonderful.

Are you willing to sign up to help on given Sundays? To bring some goodies, when the time comes? Please contact hospitality@uugrassvalley.org. Also, watch for additional opportunities to sign up.

Are you willing to be part of a small team to help plan and organize Sunday hospitality this year? If so, please contact Rev. Kevin at minister@uugrassvalley.org.

Library Team

Maybe the Library Team is Just Your Thing...

THIS COULD MEAN ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Participating in a one-time deep spring cleaning of the room.
2. Joining in on an initial sorting through of what we've got, what's come in, what to keep, and what to pass on, as we build a UU Library that serves our values, our mission, and our library users for this day and age.

3. Being part of a small team to rev up, oversee, organize and manage the library for the coming year.
4. Doing some data entry on the computer.
5. Or supporting Eileen Hale in organizing and setting up library art shows throughout the year.

Interested in any of these possibilities? Please contact Rev. Kevin at minister@uugrassvalley.org.

Sunday Greeters

Be a Sunday Greeter!

WELCOME PEOPLE TO THE SERVICE.

People get an initial sense of a congregation within the first few seconds of arriving, and how they are greeted makes a tremendous difference in those first moments.

We are right now seeking both on-site and on-line welcomers to greet people as they arrive and to help everyone feel as at home as possible throughout the service.

Yes, there are a few other tasks that go with, but extending warmth and genuine interest, with sensitivity to the uniqueness of each person, is the heart of what a greeter offers.

If you are a person who feels drawn to help others feel at home, this could be just the opportunity for service you've been looking for! Here's the [Current Greeter Job Description](#).

Feeling more introverted than that? There are also behind-the-scenes needs and "welcoming" roles on Sunday morning

...like making sure the walkway is swept, that restrooms have toilet paper and paper towels, that the heat/air is on, that the U.S. Flag is put up and taken down, that handicap parking signs are put out and taken in, etc.

Interested? Willing? These are great ways to contribute to the well-being of this community.

Contact the Membership Team (membership@uugrassvalley.org), Rev. Kevin (minister@uugrassvalley.org) or Carol Fulkerson (admin@uugrassvalley.org)



Maryann Currington,
Chair, Stewardship Team

Stewardship

Lets Keep the River Flowing...

"Living is giving. We live life best as we give our strengths, gifts, and competencies...We are called to serve, not survive. Our giving makes a difference in our families, our congregation, our community, and our faith."

- adapted from Kennon L. Callahan

The 2022-2023 Pledge documents were mailed the first week in March. Thank you to the many that returned theirs promptly. The Finance Committee will use this information to produce the budget for our next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2022 and ends June 30, 2023.

Your generosity is so important for us. Our spiritual community with its dedication to social justice and its commitment to intellectual curiosity needs your financial support. A solid footing is required to meet our basic needs.

"Money has everything to do with religion, with the choices that we make about how to be in relationship with ourselves, our neighbors, and with the divine. Religion is about life, and life, it seems, has a whole lot to do with money -Lynn Ungar

If you did not receive your Pledge documents, please call or text Maryann Currington at (530) 307-9663 or email to: murrington1944@gmail.com. You can also download a copy of the pledge form and Covenant of Right Relations by clicking, on this link: <https://www.uugrassvalley.org/and-the-river-keeps-flowing-pledge-drive-2022-23/>

If you have any questions about the pledging process, please text or call Maryann at the above contact information. Please do not email or tell someone your pledge amount. Your pledge is confidential and must be authorized by your signature.

With love and respect,

– 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.





Parish Care

Gwen Eymann
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team

By Jenny Dewey, Member, UUCM Parish Caring Team

For most people *April is the cruellest month* because it is tax season. T. S. Eliot's lines have nothing to do with tax season. One has to Google Eliot's lines to even begin to understand his meaning.

If one manages to avoid stressing over taxes, April is a month that brings blooming flowers, the return of reliable warmth, the planting of crops in anticipation of a good harvest, and a general sense of well-being. Spring has sprung once more.

We deal with tragedy, the reign of terror visited on the Ukrainian people. We still feel insecure about the dreaded virus. We wonder if Democracy is dying. Still, there is hope. There is hope because there is faith. The faith comes from an innate, human determination to survive and make the world a better place.

In April the Caring Team is putting the word out that volunteers are needed for answering the needs of many in our congregation. There are always those in need, and because we are who we are, there will always be those who step up.

Let us know if you are interested.

PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

Caring@uugrassvalley.org
or gweneymann@gmail.com
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.

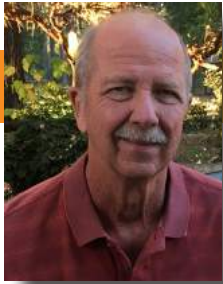
ARE YOU FACING A CHALLENGE IN YOUR LIFE?

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.





B & G Team

Wally Holtan
Chair, Building & Grounds Team

Spring is in the Air!

This month's workday was the first workday that was held on a week day. We had 11 people helping, many who we have not seen for a long time for that very reason: They can only come when we meet during the week. This will be something that we need to consider in the future.

We accomplished many things: The outside was weeded, mowed, and generally cleaned up. Inside, we cleaned 30 additional chairs for the opening up of Sunday services to a larger participation, and we added a new air conditioner for the family ministry room upstairs.

As always, it was fun being with everyone and sharing time together. Remember, workdays are a great place to volunteer for a few hours a month and meet new people!

-Wally



Art & Aesthetics

Robin Hart, Chair,
Art & Aesthetics Team

The team met on zoom in March. With the backyard garden revamp on hold until plans are made by the congregation as to the future of our present church location, Shanti Emerson thought that we could still do a mural on the back of the garage wall, but apparently putting up a mural in downtown Grass Valley involves permits and more, so we are changing gears.

With the church opening back up to full in-person services, we will be working on some interior projects over the next months. Robin met with Dawn Bateman to go over changes that would enhance the foyer space for congregants.

Shanti Emerson and Linda Siska will continue to do the center of interest for the altar area in the sanctuary. We will also do some other projects for the Worship Team for April services.

Take care and keep a rainbow in your hearts!

- Robin



Grace Under Fire

A Profile of Carol Fulkerson by Jenny Dewey

Carol Fulkerson calls herself a “nerd,” a word meaning a dumb or crazy person. (See definition in OED). This is a far cry from who she really is. It is a true misnomer.

Carol Fulkerson, the UUCM congregation office mainstay, is a woman of many talents and interests. She solves problems, big or small, for UUCM congregants, and serves as a liaison between Kevin and the UUCM community. She has an extraordinary gift for selecting the perfect slides for every Sunday service. This writer has never, on any occasion, found reasons to dispute Carol’s slide selections. The brilliance of her choices, plus her technical abilities and her availability to help all-comers, led me to wanting to know more about the woman behind the scenes.

There is much to know about Carol. She is understated and avoids unnecessary attention. However, getting to know her reveals depths to her personality and interests one would hardly guess at. She speaks of her three daughters with love and enthusiasm, saying she raised them to be informed and aware, to have strategies for navigating a puzzling world, especially challenging for young people. She has taught them to look out for each other, to be close.

From the time her girls were toddlers they have shared with their mother a devotion to musicals. When a family get-together includes watching a movie, they invariably choose a musical, and these days, the girls turn Carol on to the latest Broadway offerings.

Owning a plant nursery has been a lifelong dream which has recently been fulfilled. (New Life Nursery, in Penn Valley). The nursery is a family enterprise, with Carol’s sister and nephew (a local landscaper) as co-owners. The nursery was able to retain its original staff, leaving Carol free to throw herself into

learning the botanical names and variable characteristics of plants. As with all her endeavors, Carol is dedicated to success and is never satisfied with half-measures.

When asked about her technical skills, Carol describes an interest that came to her at an early age. She clearly has the temperament for it: patience, consistency, and a fine-tuned memory.

Carol has a passion for animals, be they furry, hairy, or somewhere between. Dexter, her black lab/St. Bernard mix, died in November of 2020. Carol was moved to write a eulogy for him that reveals her abilities as a writer, together with a deep affection for her beloved dog. Dexter was expected to live for about twelve years, but he lived nearly 18. Carol knows his life was extended by the love he received.



Carol gives the impression of calm and composure, and these characteristics are a significant part of her personality. However, when speaking with her in preparation for this profile, it became obvious Carol’s approach to life is a stream running deep. She is fully engaged with her personal interests, her family, and her UUCM position. Carol’s life is a “balancing act,” keeping her busy in diverse directions. She pulls it all off with determination and grace.

Justice News and Activities

Justice News and Updates

By Keith Johnson, Co-Chair, Justice Team

Spring is here! Are you ready to get more involved in justice work? One way to do that is to volunteer to help our local justice partners. The Justice team has created a new op- in email, justicevolunteers@uugrassvalley.org, to encourage your participation in these efforts. It works this way: opt into the email group and the Justice team will notify you whenever we become aware of specific volunteer opportunities. If a particular project or task appeals to you, simply reply to the email and a member of the Justice team will follow up. If you prefer, you may contact the local partner directly. Note that agreeing to opt in to the group email does not actually require you to volunteer for anything unless you wish to do so.

Sound good? Please reply to justicevolunteers@uugrassvalley.org or Keith Johnson at kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com to opt in to the email.

It is with sadness that we report that Carmen Riley has decided to step away from her work with the Nisenan Task Force. She has served as chair of the task force since its inception. Carmen will continue to support the Nisenan tribe and she will remain an active member of UUCM. Under her guidance the task force has flourished and UUCM has become increasingly involved in supporting the tribe and its efforts to obtain federal recognition. Thank you Carmen for all your good work and your on-going efforts to make the world a better place.



Task Force Expo Report

By Bob Miller, Co-Chair, Justice Team

The Justice Team presented a Task Force Expo on March 10th. This was a hybrid event in which four members attended in person in the sanctuary and sixteen via Zoom.

Our three task forces each gave us an update, one using a specially prepared video and another with PowerPoint. After the task force updates Barb Munn of SFUU (Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists in Auburn) described their Social Justice Program, including "Mission Earth"

Members were able to ask Barb questions and discuss future opportunities for Justice work at UUCM. Barb described their

Continued on next page



by Keith Johnson, Justice Team Co-Leader

Our Justice Warrior for April is Bernell Scott. She earned a degree in Business Administration many years ago and was a computer programmer in San Francisco for 25 years. Her justice volunteering began in earnest after she retired. She volunteered with the SEVA Foundation which provided cataract surgery to people in Nepal and other countries. She also started volunteering with the American Association of University Women and continued when she moved to Nevada County. She was involved in the UU church in Marin County and joined UUCM shortly after moving here.

At UUCM she has been on the Board, Library Committee, Membership Committee, and Caring Team. She now serves on the Justice Team as well as the Nisenan Task Force. She also volunteers with the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release organization which is a rescue operation for wild birds and other wild creatures. Bernell states that she does justice work "because there is so much suffering in the world. I want to do what I can to help relieve it. Also, it feels so good to help make the world a better place, and I have met some amazing people in the process."

Bernell believes UUCM is doing a great job with its justice work. She feels our work will be enhanced as UUCM membership continues to grow.

Thank you Bernell for all you do!

Justice News

work to discourage single use plastic. See <https://www.mysfuu.org/social-justice>

One of the goals of the Expo was to discover if there was an opportunity to establish another task force. The Justice Team reviewed the results of the Expo at their monthly team meeting and did not see a substantial initiative for another one. The congregation is engaged with the existing three and may not have the resources to support a fourth.

REPORT FROM THE BENDING THE ARC TOWARD RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

By Jim Perkins

The Voting Rights/Dismantling Racism Task Force has begun developing goals and objectives for our work this year. We started off with a planning retreat attended by 15 people with great enthusiasm and dedication. The first thing we did was to change our name to the Bending the Arc Toward Racial Justice Task Force. Then we developed five major one-year goals for our work:

- Show up in role of servants for BIPOC events to which we are invited.
- Adopt the 8th Principle prior to 2023 General Assembly
- Research and engage with organizations fighting voter suppression.
- Send 5000 letters encouraging people to vote
- Impact local elections that threaten racial equity; disseminate information about and encourage participation in local candidate forums.

The Task Force will continue to meet biweekly to develop strategies for each of these goals.

INTERFAITH FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE

By Anne Lyon

During April, Briar Patch is offering its Round Up the Receipt Program for IFM.

A new partnership has been formed between IFM and Gold Country Senior Services, (which provides Meals on Wheels) and Bright Futures (serving youth and their families). They are now regularly receiving groceries. IFM continues to increase the amount of food they buy that is grown locally. This benefits both the health & the economy of our own community. IFM is also piloting a project to convert food waste, green waste and wood chips into fuel and fertilizer by hosting a biodigester machine at the IFM facility.

Volunteer help is still needed! If you have a little time to volunteer a couple hours per month, please call 273-8132 or visit interfaithfoodministry.org.

Share the Plate

Thanks to UUCM members and friends who made donations in February, [KARE Crisis Nursery](#) will receive \$739 to support its work providing safe, nurturing care for the small children of families experiencing a stressful situation.

We are currently completing March collections for [Interfaith Food Ministry](#), which feed the hungry and reduce food insecurity in Nevada County.



Our April partner, [Citizens for Choice](#), provides compassionate, confidential, non-judgmental reproductive health care services for adults and teens through [The Clinic!](#) in Grass Valley.

Watch for opportunities to volunteer together to support UUCM's various justice partners. And thank you for giving so generously!



Community Connections – Online Activities

Staying Connected through Zoom

UUCM is open again, but services and meetings are still available via Zoom.

The Board has eased restrictions to allow full in person services and masks are not required, but not discouraged.

WEEKLY @ UUCM

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

SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:30 VIA ZOOM OR ON-SITE

REGISTRATION NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

Please do not attend in person if you are feeling unwell or have had a COVID exposure. Masks not required, but recommended for those at high risk for illness. Should CDC guidelines change or Nevada County's infection rates increase, our attendance policy may also change.



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

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 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 April will be about the current move to restrict what lessons teachers can present in the classroom. Across the U.S., educators are being censored for broaching controversial topics. Since January 2021, researcher Jeffrey Sachs says that 35 different states have introduced 137 bills limiting what schools can teach with regard to race, American history, politics, sexual orientation and gender identity. One proposed law in South Carolina, for instance, prohibits teachers from discussing any topic that creates "discomfort, guilt or anguish" on the basis of political belief.

Here are two links to information about this topic:

[The February 3, 2022 episode of NPR's Fresh Air:](#)

[And this from the Bloomington, Indiana UU Humanists:](#)

I hope to see you on Wednesday, April 6th at 11:00 via Zoom: 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. 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 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

April: Awakening

By Jo Waters, Chair, UUCM Family Ministry

With our April theme of Awakening, we celebrate the new life around us. The trees are in bloom, daffodils and other flowers are showing their beautiful faces, and our beloved community of UUCM is reopening Sunday services with no restrictions. Exciting times!

FAMILY MINISTRY

In Family Ministry, we will continue with our monthly Kids Connection on April 3 at 10:30 AM, starting upstairs. Our first Kids Connection in March was a success with 3 youngsters creating clay chalices under the loving care of Lindsay Dunckel and Walt O'Maley. I wonder what will happen in April?

On March 20, a lovely Spring Equinox mandala was created during our All Ages Service led by Lindsay Dunckel and Beth Karow. The next one, on April 24, will surely bring more and different wonders. We will expand on the celebration of families by holding a Family Ministry potluck after the service. This gathering welcomes people of ALL ages. Details will be sent out via the echalice as we get closer.

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITES FOR YOUTH

It's not too soon to be thinking about summer break. Here is a link to two UU Summer Camps: [LINK TO CAMPS](#)



JOIN US FOR A VISIONING EVENT FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

Parents/family members, please watch for an invitation to a Family Ministry visioning event. We need everyone's input to create a program that meets the needs of our children.

Full Community Education



Our April Theme:

AWAKENING

"You live like this, sheltered, in a delicate world, and you believe you are living. Then you read a book (Lady Chatterley, for instance), or you take a trip, or you talk with [someone], and you discover that you are not living, that you are hibernating...

Monotony, boredom, death. Millions

live like this (or die like this) without knowing it. They work in offices. They drive a car. They picnic with their families. They raise children. And then some shock treatment takes place, a person, a book, a song, and it awakens them and saves them from death"

- Anais Nin

"The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you.
Don't go back to sleep."

- Rumi

We all know what it was like. The world was alive once. When we were little. The trees whispered words. Animals spoke to us with their eyes. Playgrounds could become castles. The stars somehow told us we were special. Life could speak.

The magic wasn't imprisoned in childhood. We've all had adult moments when we've "come alive." Wonderfully lost in our work, our creativity or a kiss. Time both stopped and was set on fire.

It happened as well in moments of alignment. When our inner life and outer life fell into step. We were finally "us." Everything was clear, and enough.

There it was in the flower too. Actually in so many simple things: freshly baked bread, blackberries, a deer standing still staring at us without blinking, our children laughing. For those fleeting moments, we lacked nothing. We felt gifted beyond comprehension. We knew what "rich" really means.

And it's not that these moments of awakening don't still happen. There's just something about how we've got things organized that places a fog between them and us. As Anais Nin says, we believe we are living, but really aren't. It's surprising actually - how easily we let dullness sink in, how often we allow life to be muted.

But there are always those memories. That whispering tree. That magic kiss. That moment of being true to ourselves. That

priceless taste of blackberry juice on our tongue. They can be brought back. Yes, we forget what it feels like to be fully awake and for life to be fully alive. But forgetting means we can remember. It means we can help each other remember. And remembering opens a door for us to find our way back.

So maybe the message this month isn't simply, "Awaken!" but also, "Remind!" We need to tell our stories so others remember theirs. We need to take each other back in time, so we can fully inhabit our present. It's no small thing. On our own, we are so easily convinced being wide awake was a delusion, so easily fooled into thinking that life never really felt that good or seemed so clear. But with help, we wake up. We remember what it is like for life to shimmer. And for us to shimmer too.

UPCOMING SOUL MATTERS THEMES FOR 2022

April: Awakening

May: Nurturing Beauty

June: Celebrating Blessings

Sunday Book Group

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

New books for the next few months were selected at the March 27 meeting. We'll be skipping our April meeting, so the next meeting will be on Sunday, May 1. To find out more about the upcoming books and meeting dates, please contact Theresa Houtman, listed below.



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 if you have any questions, or wish to be added to the email list.

April 2022 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

APRIL 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.

3	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:30 AM	Kids' Connection
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		7:00 PM	Choir
5	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
6	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		11:00 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		4:00 PM	Worship Team Meeting
7	Thursday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
9	Saturday	1:00 PM	Spirituality Sharing Circle - on site
		3:00 PM	Spirituality Sharing Circle - Zoom
10	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		7:00 PM	Choir
11	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
11	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
13	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		4:30 PM	Ministry Council Meeting

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

14	Thursday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		2:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
17	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		7:00 PM	Choir
19	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
20	Wednesday	10:30 AM	Open Board of Trustees Mtg
		5:00 PM	Justice Team Meeting
21	Thursday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group
24	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Family Ministry Potluck
26	Tuesday	7:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
27	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
28	Thursday	8:00 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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

Sunday Services are held at 10:30 AM by Zoom or on-site
No 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

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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