

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

March 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 for sign-up links, or contact the office at 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 • • •

MARCH THEME: *Renewing Faith*

March 6 *And the River Keeps Flowing: Renewing Faith*
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Members and Friends
of UUCM

Come celebrate, restore, re-find and refine your faith in the heart and possibility of this UU Community of the Mountains, even as we seek to hold onto our faith in humanity.

March 13 *Dipping into the Well of Grief:
A memorial for all we've lost*
Rev. Kevin, with Chuck Champlin & Beth Karow,
Worship Associates

Exactly two years after a novel virus turned our lives inside out and outside in, we take time to grieve together in the spirit of a memorial service – to acknowledge, name, witness, and honor our accumulating grief and the many types of losses we've borne.

In anticipation of this service, you are invited to send in digital photos representing what you have lost. We will create a video montage. Please send your photos by Sunday, March 6 to admin@uugrassvalley.org.

Within the service itself, you will be invited to name in writing some of the losses that you are feeling most deeply. These will be read aloud in a collective litany.

Please **SET CLOCKS FORWARD** Daylight Savings Time begins!

March 20 *Round and Round the Earth Is Turning*
Lindsay Dunkel, with Beth Karow, WA

Join us for an experiential service in which we celebrate the renewal of faith as reflecting in the return of Spring, lifting up hope and the beauty all around us on the eve of the equinox.

March 27 *Architects of Fate: Building a New Way*
Rev. Kevin, with Chuck Champlin & Beth Karow,
Worship Associates

"All are architects of fate, working in these walls of time," wrote Longfellow. The religious tradition we inherited and call home is always a work in progress. Perhaps especially now. We continue to renovate this spiritual abode in our time, drawing on our skills and gifts, and using the materials at hand. Are you a brick layer? A roofer? A painter? A carpenter? A plumber? Someone who sews the seat cushions and curtains, or someone who landscapes the entry?

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Renewing Faith.

Oh, there's a theme! Not "Return to Normal" but "Renewing Faith," which speaks to the deeper sense of connection that sustains us no matter how the forms of our lives are shifting. It also suggests that our faith – our deeper sense of connection – has been challenged and is in need of attention and restoration.

Is that true for you? Has your faith been challenged or shaken? Or deepened?

By the time this column is published, some of us will have gathered in a visioning workshop and will have had a chance to reflect on and name something of what has sustained us, what we have been able to count on in our lives, no matter what. Roots of faith. We will also have had a chance to consider what about UUCM was and will be true no matter what. Roots of another portion of our faith. (If you were not able to attend, we would love to know your thoughts.) Please share them [HERE](#).)

Since this is a religious community, of course there is an important invitation here to renew our faith and sense of connection within and to this gathered community, each other, and why UUCM exists, stretched as our connecting threads have been by pandemic living. Re-connecting is the starting place for all the rest, and I encourage you both to take advantage of connecting opportunities and to help me and other leaders know what forms of connection you are most needing. What would renew your faith?

Watch for coming invitations this month to reconnect, starting with invitations to update your directory photos, to craft brief bios (meaning introductions to yourself), to share photos of yourselves in your current natural habitat, and to name your gifts and the ways you are wanting and willing to serve.

Of course, the annual stewardship campaign that kicks off this month and that asks you to discern your pledge for the coming year is about so much more than the money you are willing and able to give. It is also about considering why you are here and what matters to you. Please take advantage of the opportunities to connect to others and to share your thoughts in the Stewardship gatherings. Think of everything now as an opportunity to renew connection as well as your faith.

As I named in the [service on February 20](#), my sense is that for many of us our faith in humanity has been shaken of late, what with all the acrimony, toxic polarization, and inability to join forces to address the world-wide dangers that threaten all of us. Renewing this faith is going to be a much longer journey, I expect, one whose meaning we may need to envision in a future beyond our lifetimes.

Given these past couple years,
What of your faith is in need of renewal?
What of your faith has been challenged or shaken?
What of your faith has been deepened?

And how might your participation in this UU community help you anchor your life and your sense of this moment in the deep faith that sustains you no matter what?

I am right there with you, asking myself the same questions. Let us "embody that which we preach," and renew our faith not alone, but together.

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*

*"You are not a drop in the ocean,
you are the ocean in a drop."
- by Rumi*

YOUR BOARD AT WORK: Each month your Board of Directors meets for three plus hours to do the required work of the church. In addition, board members meet to work on other projects in support of the ongoing goals of UUCM. Sometimes these meetings are inspiring, sometimes overwhelming, and sometimes tedious. But they all lead us, step by step, closer to our goals. Our time is well spent in these activities because they allow us to progress and to respond to the needs of our community.

In February the Board meeting focused on UUCM's financial goals for the preparation of our 2022/23 budget. The Finance Committee's work to develop the budget has already begun, along with Board guidance on future needs and priorities. The final budget will be presented to the Community at our annual business meeting on May 22. The Board has also been actively involved with the annual Visioning Workshop which, at the time of this writing, is about to take place. Both the annual budget and Community Visioning drive much of the Board's work for the upcoming year. They are equally important processes. One is very much driven by the realities and limitations of our finances, and the other is driven by the possibilities envisioned by our community. From this "visioning" the Minister and Board create our goals for the upcoming year. These goals lead us forward toward things we know we can achieve if we keep working at them, inch by inch, step by step, mile by mile.

One could say that our board work is guided this month, even more than most months, by both the head (finance) and the heart (vision). In bringing our best, our minds and hearts, to our board work we get much accomplished and the results are gratifying to achieve.

Serving on the board is a "behind the scenes" kind of service. Necessary but not always visible. It is rewarding and challenging. I have found that this service opportunity allows for growth, skill development and the chance to meet community members and get to know them well through our work together. And, believe it or not, it can be fun. There is enjoyment in our work – a lovely energy that being of service generates and for me, feeds my spirit. Though I did not begin this article with the intention of asking, I will ask now. *Does this seem like the kind of service opportunity that you would like to be a part of?* Our board has had an opening for a *Trustee at Large* for most of the year. And soon it will be time to hold an

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.

election for new openings on the Board as well. If the idea of working closely with others, on challenging and exciting new projects appeals to you, why not volunteer? We need you. We need your ideas and talents, and you might find, as I did, that you need us too! If interested send an email to Nominating Committee chair Kathryn Young. (kathryneyounguu@gmail.com) You will be most welcome!

Namaste,

Pam



Treasurer News

Bob Packard
UUCM Treasurer

What Makes the Endowment Fund So Special?

For the February Mountain Chalice, I introduced (or reintroduced) the Endowment Fund. But I did not take the discussion very far, so I'm sure I left a lot of readers wondering what sets the Endowment Fund apart from others that we contribute to. The answer to that question is this: A written Policy controls how much can be spent and what it can be spent for.

A written Policy, approved by the UUCM Congregation, defines the Fund and restricts its use. In fact, at present, it cannot be used at all. Really! Its job right now is just to grow up a little bit more, so that it can become more meaningful. The Fund now contains roughly \$41,240. Only when the amount grows to at least \$50,000 can Endowment Fund money be used.

Not only that, the amount that can be used is further limited to interest earned in the preceding fiscal year, not to exceed 5% of the fund's value. That means the rest of the money can never be spent! Remembering those rules, the Endowment Committee will make an annual recommendation as to how earnings from the previous fiscal year's Fund should be spent (or retained). The Board would then present their recommendations to the Community for approval at the next business meeting, and then those funds would be turned over to the Treasurer, who cannot touch Fund moneys otherwise.

The Policy also limits purposes for which earnings of the Fund may be used. Allowed uses are:

1. Enhancement of UUCM programs,
2. Assistance to our social justice programs or those of the larger local community, or
3. UUCM facilities development.



There is also a provision for emergency use, in the unlikely event that UUCM should fall on hard times.

Until then, the Endowment Fund is to be growing from new contributions and from earnings from marketable securities: stocks and bonds. Investments are selected so as to achieve earnings while still preserving the principal. Currently most of our Fund is held by the UU Common Endowment Fund, where it is pooled with endowments and reserves of other UU churches.

Next month, I'll briefly discuss what kinds of contributions come together to build the Fund, and how you might want to participate in building this "forever" treasure for our beloved Community.

Renewal Leave



UUCM Renewal Leave/Sabbatical Planning Committee

By George Dunstan, RL/SP Committee Member

The RL/SP Committee is checking in to see that everyone is aware of Kevin's renewal leave starting in October. We are putting your survey feedback to good use as we craft the plan for a robust and successful renewal time for Rev Kevin and the congregation.

Please send any questions you may have to renewalleavecommunications@uugrassvalley.org

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



Maryann Currington,
Chair, Stewardship Team

Stewardship

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

"The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow" was a brilliant success. There was something for everyone and the bidding was brisk. Thank you to the many who contributed auction items and thank you to the many who bid. We're looking forward to dinners, game nights, boating excursions, hikes and much more. And the UUCM treasury is being brightened with nearly \$6000!

– 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.

And the River Keeps Flowing...

Our 2022-2023 Pledge Campaign is fast upon us. Each year we set aside a specific time to build a congregation of generous people. It is only through the generosity of the time, talent and treasure of our members that our UU community continues to flow, supporting our values and bringing joy, love and equity into our lives and into the community.

These are the highlights of "And the River Keeps Flowing":

OPENING SERVICE: Sunday, March 6

TESTIMONIALS: At each Sunday Service in March, a dedicated member of UUCM will share their personal UUCM journey.

GATHERINGS: March 6 through March 27

"We gather because we need one another. We gather to honor and acknowledge."
–The Art of Gathering by Priya Parker

Look for your email invitation to join a small group of UUCM members to share memories and visions of UUCM.

PLEDGE LETTER AND PLEDGE DOCUMENT:

This important message and document will be mailed to you during the week of March 13th. Each member or friend must sign the document to acknowledge their continued membership and support of UUCM. The deadline to return your Pledge is April 3. This gives the Finance Committee the time to prepare the budget for our next fiscal year.

We've had many challenges these past two years. They have been unlike any others in our UUCM history. Let us continue to flow with the generous support of all.





Parish Care

Gwen Eymann
Chair, UUCM Parish Care Team

By Jenny Dewey, Member, UUCM Parish Caring Team

Most of us know about the Ides of March and how March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Fewer remember the March Hare, whose wisdom is as enduring as any quote about the month of March.

"Then you should say what you mean," the March Hare went on.

"I do, Alice hastily replied; "at least – at least I mean what I say – that's the same thing, you know."

- by Lewis Carroll, from "Alice in Wonderland"

In today's world believing what people say is a stretch. We endure double-speak and disingenuous remarks from those in powerful positions. We shake our heads, puzzling over what we just heard. What is true? More to the point: what is false? The March Hare helps himself to butter he isn't supposed to have and in his utterly convincing way says, "It was the best butter..."

In this way the Hare avoids a scolding.

In our community truth is held in high esteem. Helping one another without subterfuge or ulterior motives is a given. The Caring Team offers assistance when and where needed; the assistance of a practical nature and includes services of all sorts. Covid restrictions do still apply. Every effort is made to address needs people have.

The March Hare would feel uncomfortable being a member of the Parish caring team. He would feel terribly out of place.

If you wish to join us, please do. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. The Team offers rides (where possible re: Covid), meals and groceries delivered to doorsteps, visits, phone calls, and listening – always listening.

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 hennifreed@gmail.com
or 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 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!

We had a great volunteer turnout with the wonderful spring-like weather in February. Eleven volunteers helped us accomplish a number of projects. Outside most of our crew worked on necessary spring maintenance – mainly weeding – and we were able to get most of it done. In addition, George filled cracks in our stucco to help prevent water getting into the underlying wooden structure of the building, and John Burnside replaced the broken rope on the flag pole.

Inside Paul did some prep work for painting the repair work previously done in the nursery and he put in a required smoke/carbon monoxide detector in the upstairs hallway.

Best of all, we had fun working together and getting caught up on how we are all doing. Thanks again to everyone who was there for our monthly workday. It is days like this that allow us to present our facility as best as we can to the outside community. I hope to see more friendly faces this month!

-Wally



Art & Aesthetics

Robin Hart, Chair,
Art & Aesthetics Team

The team met on Zoom in February with Phil Horning who gave a presentation of his proposal for the backyard redesign. It would be fairly costly to implement and would need to have a capital fundraiser in order to go forward with the project.

The plans and the cost analysis were sent on to Rev. Kevin and Pam Kisor for the Board. With the possibility of the congregation moving to a new church home in the works, the garden project will be tabled for now until a determination can be made as to whether UUCM will be staying in the building or not.

Shanti Emerson suggested that we could still do a mural on the back of the garage wall and is willing to head up a team to do this in spring. We will develop plans and send a call out to the congregation for a design.

With the church opening back up to the congregation, we will be working on some interior projects over the next months. Robin will be meeting with Dawn Bateman for some ideas to make the foyer a more welcoming space. Shanti Emerson and Linda Siska will continue to do the center of interest for the altar area in the sanctuary.

Take care and keep a rainbow in your hearts!

- Robin



Calling All Drummers!

By Jordan Thomas-Rose

We will be hosting a drum circle at 1:30 PM on March 6th, in the sanctuary at UUCM, and would love for you to join us! Bring yourself, an enthusiasm for rhythm, and something you want to whack. I'll be leading, but there's always space for me to step back and follow someone else's rhythm.

I hope to see you there!

A Heart of Gold

A Profile of Penny Harlan by Jenny Dewey

"A good heart's worth gold..."

The source of the expression we know as "Heart of Gold," comes from a quote from Shakespeare. The words perfectly describe one of our UUCM members: Penny Harlan.

A truer friend one cannot hope to have, nor a more generous one. Penny is a "mother hen," a giver. Penny is a widow after fifty years of marriage. She is the mother of three, (two sons and a daughter), grandmother of four and, great grandmother of one (with another on the way!) Penny's life has been composed of making true and lasting friends, support, in all seasons, of her family, and a firm believer in justice and peace.

Penny has been on the front lines in her efforts to bring awareness to the homeless and the disenfranchised. As a member of Grandmothers for Peace she has spent long hours manning tables spread with information on how to be an activist for this all-important cause.

I met Penny when both of us were relatively new members of the UUCM congregation. Penny was a "greeter." In her understated way she welcomed all who came in the door. I first noticed her in this role. She was wearing a green and white sweater. Wanting to introduce myself I said, "What a nice sweater. Is it new?"

Penny's response: "Oh, I've had this sweater for twenty-five years."

This is a typical remark from Penny. She holds on to things, rejecting the very idea of changing ways she has held for years and years, ways that work well for her.



Being who she is means offering help in a multitude of ways. She brings people into her life with a willingness and forthrightness rarely seen in today's world. Her commitment to UUCM is boundless and unwavering.

Penny's introduction to the Unitarian Universalist church came through Anita Wald-Tuttle. Their association goes back to the days of Grandmothers for Peace. They worked side by side in this cause. When it comes to taking active roles in our community the two are like-minded. In the church, and in the community at large, Penny is again a giver.

In terms of philosophy, political opinions, and a mind (and heart) open to new ways of living, Penny fits perfectly into the tapestry of Unitarian Universalist principles.

Sharing her wisdom and humor in a Soul Matters Circle is a gift. Penny's funny side emerges through her firm belief in the wisdom and humor of Mark Twain. She willingly and wisely explores the language of every sermon, welcoming chances to expand her intellectual and emotional life.

This writer has had the good fortune of knowing Penny Harlan since the day when mention was made of a pretty green and white sweater. The sweater is a bit of remembrance, minor in and of itself, but the start of an enduring friendship.

Justice News and Activities

Come to our Task Force Expo

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 6:00 PM.

By Bob Miller, Co-Chair, Justice Team

Our three Justice Task Forces are a major component of UUCM's work for Justice. On Thursday, March 10th the Justice Team is presenting a Task Force Expo.

Come to the Expo in person or by Zoom to discover what they are doing on your behalf to further justice. Find out if you can help. Join the discussion to decide if UUCM should have a fourth Task Force. If so, what should it be?

To help the discussions we will be interviewing a member of the Sierra Foothills congregation to see if we can learn from their justice work.

For information contact Keith Johnson (kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com) or Bob Miller (bob@sierramiller.com).



VOTING RIGHTS AND DISMANTLING RACISM TASK FORCE RETREAT PLANNED FOR MARCH 12

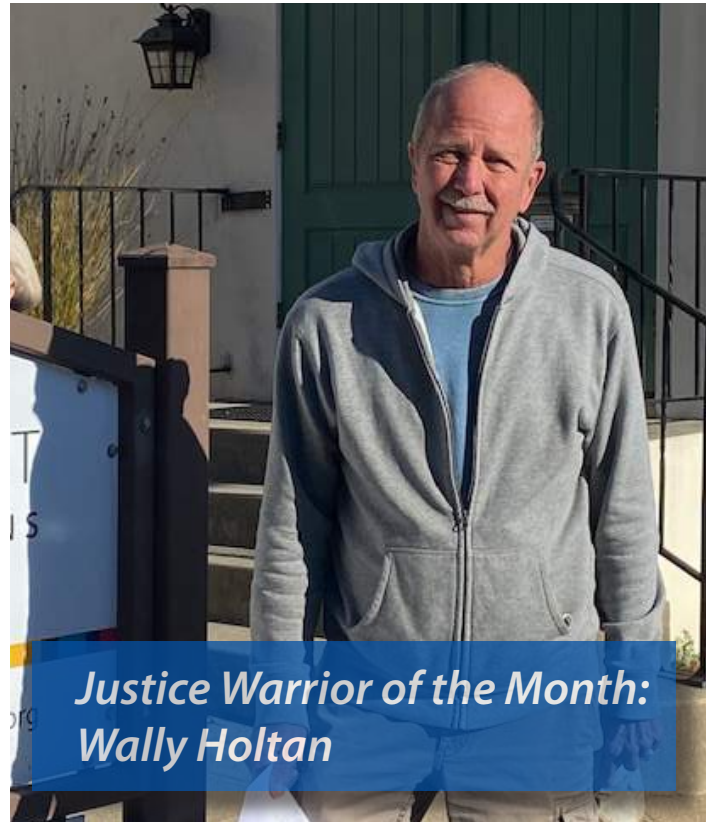
By Lindsay Dunckel

The Voting Rights and Dismantling Racism Task Force held its initial meeting on February 18. We decided that a four-hour retreat would be the best way to launch the work of the task force, giving us time to dive deep into resource identification, priority-setting, and action planning. We are also hoping to clarify scope, key terms, and roles of Task Force Members and Task Force Supporters.

We reiterated that our three main goals are:

1. Offer our active support to the BIPOC community when we are invited/welcomed to serve in that role.
2. Adopt the proposed 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism.
3. Actively work to uphold voting rights on a local, state and national level.

We will be meeting on Saturday, March 12 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. If you feel called to the work of the task force or have questions about it, please reach out to Keith Johnson (kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com). We welcome all who'd like to roll up their sleeves and join us in this important work.



by Bernell Scott, Justice Team Member

Our Justice Warrior for March is Wally Holtan. He has been having a rich and rewarding life. After college he served in the Marine Corps. Later he was a veterinarian for 30 years, specializing in small animals. Also, he has scuba dived at locations around the world which exposed him to many different, fascinating cultures.

He joined UUCM in 2007 and has served on the Stewardship Committee, Finance Team, and Board of Trustees. He has been leading the Building and Grounds Team for over ten years. In addition, he has volunteered for the Interfaith Food Ministry for over nine years and made dinners for Hospitality House guests for numerous years.

Since joining UUCM, Wally has joined in various protests and participates in the Challenging White Privilege Team (now called Voting Rights/Dismantling Racism Task Force). The fact that UUCM advocates for specific social justice concerns is very important to him. He also feels UUCM will have a bigger impact in our community by focusing on a limited number of Social Justice areas to get involved.

Thank you, Wally, for all you have done for our animal friends, human friends, and the greater good.

Justice News

INTERFAITH FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE

By Anne Lyon

IFM greets March and UUCM with smiles!

We welcome our new Development Director, Shelby McNamara! She's taken over for Naomi Cabral who, sadly, left knowing her family needs more of her attention right now.

IFM is working hard to prepare for the big March Fundraiser! They're stuffing envelopes as we speak, and need more volunteers. If you can help, please call Shelby at IFM, Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 9:00 AM to noon. (530) 273-8132.

A generous donor has agreed to match any donation to IFM through the month of March! Donations can be made by check, mailed to IFM (440 Henderson St, Grass Valley, 95945); on their website on Facebook; or dropped off at their offices Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 9:00 AM to noon.

Facilities Exploration

Help Wanted!

by Gail Schulz, Facilities Exploration Committee Chair

We need...Active, engaged members of the Facilities Exploration Committee! (This is the committee responsible for exploring whether we work on improving the building we now own so that it better fits our needs, or find other alternatives – another existing building? Designing a new building?... let's explore!)

As we begin the process of translating our needs assessment into concrete long term plans and recommendations, we need a few good people to help us. We need to develop our strategic vision and build our UUCM consensus. We also need to analyze what we have and what specific spaces we need. We will begin to look around our wider community to understand what might become available, if and when we as a community determine that is the correct direction for us.

Interested in lending a hand? Please contact Gail Schulz at gfschulz@gmail.com to let us know your area of interest and expertise. Meanwhile, plan to take part in our Next Steps consultant conversation on Sunday, March 20!



Share the Plate

UUCM's Justice Team has changed the name of UUCM's monthly contribution to local organizations: "Share the Plate" conveys the truly meaningful part of collecting money each Sunday to support good work being done in the wider community. So, while we'll still "pass the plate" each week, we'll celebrate that sharing it is what matters.

Thanks to UUCM members and friends who made donations in January, [Sierra Roots](#) will receive \$724 to support its work with homeless people, dedicated to listening and collaborating with them to make progress in their health, self-reliance, and action plans for secure, safe homes.

We are currently completing February collections for [KARE Crisis Nursery](#), which provides safe, nurturing care for the small children of families experiencing a stressful situation.



Our March partner is [Interfaith Food Ministry](#), of which UUCM is a member. IFM is an extraordinary organization working to feed the hungry and reduce food insecurity in Nevada County. In 2021, IFM served 9763 individuals, sharing with them 2,230,241 pounds of food!

See the Justice section in this Mt Chalice for how you can volunteer at IFM with UUCM volunteers.

Our partners, including Interfaith Food Ministry, tell us what a genuine difference our collective donations make. Thank you for giving so generously.



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 - 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

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 11:00 AM

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



We will have a discussion about what brought us to participate in this Humanist Discussion group, how did we each get where we are, what is our story? Why are we UU's? Why are we Humanists? We can also look at differences between Humanists and Atheists and whether there are religions that are not Humanist?

No readings, you each already have all the information needed to participate in this discussion.

See you on March 2nd 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. 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

March: Renewing Faith

By Jo Waters, Chair, UUCM Family Ministry

It's been so warm lately it almost feels like it should be May already instead of only March. Just as the earth is renewing itself with new growth and flowering bulbs, our theme for March is "Renewing Faith."

On March 6 at 10:30 AM, our young people 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 March 20 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 AM at UUCM.

FAMILY MINISTRY VISIONING EVENT

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.

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES 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](#)



Sunday Book Group

UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

ONE SUNDAY A MONTH AT 1:00 PM AS LISTED

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



Full Community Education



Our March Theme: *RENEWING FAITH*

"Faith is homesickness. Faith is a lump in the throat."
- Frederick Buechner

"Once a reporter asked A.J. Muste, 'Do you really think you are going to change the policies of this country by standing out here alone at night in front of the White

House with a candle?' Muste replied softly: 'Oh I don't do this to change the country. I do this so the country won't change me.'"

- Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat

How do we renew our faith
when so much is falling apart?
In these fragile days,
we, who assess life through "the fire of reason,"
find so little reason to trust
that everything's going to be ok.
The climate is collapsing.
Racism so often morphs more than it is removed.
Politics divide more than they unite.
Don't tell us it's slowly getting better.
Don't ask us to deny this feeling of despair that feels so real.
On so many days, we have lost our hope for a better day.

But we do long for it!
Don't we?
Despite the setbacks and slowness,
there remains something inside that continues to say,
"It can be better!"
"More is possible!"
"I need to believe that goodness is real."
It's a longing that lingers no matter what.

Maybe that's what the preacher meant
when he spoke of faith
as a hunger for home.
Maybe faith is more about remembering
our longing for what we love and who we want to be,
more than it is an act of restoring our trust
that everything will work out well.

Maybe the peacenik was right:
We must remain faithful to the fight
not because change is guaranteed
but to ensure that we are not changed.

UPCOMING SOUL MATTERS THEMES FOR 2022

April: Awakening

May: Nurturing Beauty

June: Celebrating Blessings



Want to Learn More About UUCM and Get Connected?

GET TO KNOW UUCM AND OUR
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST TRADITIONS
BY EXPERIENCING THEM!

If you've been attending services or checking out the website and are curious to find out more, (or if you are already a member and wanting to renew your sense of community and of this religious tradition) join Rev. Kevin, other newer folks, and existing members for meaningful and fun connection as well as information.

Come first for a single-session "UU 101," an interactive, introductory session on **Tuesday evening, March 15, 6:30-8:00**. We call it **Entry Point**. All are welcome, and we expect to offer the evening both on-site and on-line.

If that session piques your interest, you are invited to continue with a deeper look - **Starting Point**, five rich sessions of connection and learning, 6:30-8:00 on Tuesday evenings, March 22 through April 12, with a final session on May 3. (This part of the series asks for a commitment to attend all five sessions.)

Throughout both **Entry Point** and **Starting Point**, we'll approach Unitarian Universalism and membership at UUCM as ongoing journeys. And rather than simply hearing about Unitarian Universalism, participants will have a chance to experience Unitarian Universalism, with awareness that each person brings important insight, experiences and perspectives to this shared journey.

To sign up for **Entry Point**, for more information about the **Starting Point** series, or to learn more about UUCM and membership in general, please contact Kate Canan at membership@uugrassvalley.org, Rev. Kevin at minister@uugrassvalley.org, or Carol Fulkerson at admin@uugrassvalley.org

March 2022 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

MARCH 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.

1	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
		6:00 PM	Worship Team Meeting
2	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		11:00 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
3	Thursday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
		10:30 AM	Sunday Service/Kickoff Sunday
6	Sunday	10:30 AM	Kids' Connection
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		7:00 PM	Choir
8	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
9	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		4:30 PM	Ministry Council Meeting
10	Thursday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:30 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
		2:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
		6:00 PM	Task Force Expo
13	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		7:00 PM	Choir
14	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
15	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		6:30 PM	Entry Point

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

16	Wednesday	10:30 AM	Open Board of Trustees Mtg
		5:00 PM	Justice Team Meeting
17	Thursday	8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		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	Next Steps Event for All
		7:00 PM	Choir
22	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		6:30 PM	Starting Point Series begins
23	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
24	Thursday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
27	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop In Support Circle
		1:00 PM	Sunday Book Group
29	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		6:30 PM	Starting Point
30	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
31	Thursday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		8:00 AM	Men's Group via Zoom



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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

Sunday Services are 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

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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