

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

May 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 increase, 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 • • •

### MAY THEME: *Nuturing Beauty*

**May 8** *Ordinary Beauty and the Power of -Er*  
Rev. Kevin, with Cheryl Morris, Worship Associate  
This Mother's Day, we look to the "ordinary" beauty around and within us, and invite ourselves to release our grip on the pursuit of perfection in order to arrive at the moment that is waiting for us. Music with Kate Canan and Tom Wernigg.

**May 15** *You Gotta Have Art!*  
UUCM artists of all kinds, with Lindsay Dunckel, Rev. Kevin Tarsa, and the help of the Art and Aesthetics Team

For many, creating art is a spiritual practice. Some consider the creative force the spirit of life. Come celebrate art and creativity in its many forms and find inspiration in the creative endeavors of members of all ages of the UUCM community.

Got a poem, a song, a piece of art, an unusual kind of "art" to share? Contact Rev. Kevin ([minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)) or Lindsay.

**May 22** *Soup's On!*  
Rev. Kevin, with Cheryl Morris and Beth Karow, Worship Associates  
Rev. Mary Katherine Morn writes, "We are here together to borrow courage for the task of coming alive." On this day of UUCM's annual

meeting, anchored in the metaphor of stone soup, we look for truth, beauty, goodness, and courage in community. Music with Toby Thomas-Rose.

#### *Join in a soup lunch between the service and the meeting!*

You are invited to please bring a meaningful (to you) stone to donate to the set of stones we use for our weekly Joys and Sorrows rituals. Think something between an acorn and egg size. Maybe it's a stone from the Yuba River, or Lake Michigan, or a desert landscape. Maybe it's from your yard. Maybe it's professionally polished, or maybe its beauty is more raw. If you cannot attend on May 22, please bring your stone to the UUCM office earlier, on a weekday morning

#### **May 29** *What's Beauty Got to Do With It?*

A tapestry service; Beth Karow, Worship Associate  
Following a familiar feature of Soul Matters Circles, a few individuals in our UUCM community offer their responses to the questions that call to them from this month's Beauty-themed packet.

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## From the Minister

Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

We're invited by our monthly theme to nurture beauty this month. Or, at least, to consider the value and importance of "nurturing beauty."

It doesn't appear to be the most spiritual of themes, at first glance, or the most relevant or responsible while the world is on fire, but the Soul Matters authors ask a pair of surprising questions that ask me to look deeper: "What if beauty is here to make us wise? What if beauty is the way the sacred speaks?"

These are questions that ask me to consider not only the nature of what is "sacred" but also the nature of what is "beauty." I feel immediately an intuitive "yes" to the linking of beauty and wisdom and the linking of beauty and the sacred "speaking." Without conscious explanation, I know them to be true. I am steeped in sensation as I hold these possibilities for a moment, and words fall off rapidly.

My thoughts move directly to memories of perfect vistas, deeply compelling skies, and sunsets at once intimate and expansive. I remember in my mind's eye moss-draped landscapes of a brilliant green that vibrated with electricity, and the exquisitely simple and elegant, individual, pink-caressed camellia blossoms from the yard that pull me in and make me reluctant to look anywhere else. I get a waft of grape hyacinth, a scent with which my nose is never quite sated. I hear the very particular vibrato speed of a warm human or instrument voice that reaches into me, and I taste the exquisite combination of chocolate and a tawny port that capped an extraordinary meal one spring evening. Not to mention transcendent moments of music, dance, drama, visual art, film, poetry, storytelling and, of course, people. Sources of sensory and aesthetic beauty, all. But summoners of wisdom? Voices of the sacred?

As we ache for and seek to support the people of Ukraine, worry about and work against the unjust effects of current threats to voting rights, imagine and try to prevent the harm to local life posed by proposed mining, fret about national and international politics, and steel ourselves for fire season, what's beauty got to do with it?

I think that beauty, as experienced by each of us via our own very personal senses and evolving aesthetics, amounts to a powerfully positive experience of transcendence, an experience of joy, awe, wonder, and glory, an experience of the intense goodness available and inherent in our perfectly

imperfect world. Beauty is felt, not thought. Beauty offers a grounding and restorative experience of raw potential and boundary-lowering transcendence. In this way, beauty is indeed the voice of the sacred for me, or a window affording a glimpse into the sacred center of things.

Holly Rice, just two days before heading out with husband Jeff Stone for a new state, pointed out to me the gifted wisdom of Margaret Renkl, a New York Times columnist who focuses her writing on nature, politics and culture. In a recent PBS News Hour interview, in response to a question about her continual celebration of the natural world right outside her door, Renkl said, "I want to make other people fall in love with what I love. We don't work to preserve what we don't care about. We work to preserve what we're in love with."

This is the gift of beauty. It is an experience of love, really. And perhaps like the lure of petals and nectar in flowers, which are means to a much larger end, beauty serves to draw us in close enough to glimpse a larger truth, to be fed in our journey, and quietly to invite our activity to plant seeds for futures we can scarcely imagine.

May beauty indeed help us work to preserve what we're in love with, even as it feeds us in the midst of all the weighty else that fades into the background for a moment.

May it be so.

*With care*

*- Rev. Kevin*

### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

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

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



*Pam Kisor, President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees*

## Board of Trustees

This month the Board is busily preparing for our annual Community Business Meeting to be held on Sunday, May 22 at 1:00 PM. The annual business meeting gives UUCM members the opportunity to vote on new representatives to the board and nominating committee. You will also have the opportunity to vote on the annual budget which will be presented by our treasurer, Bob Packard.

In addition we will present reports from the minister, the president, the treasurer and endowment to update you on our work this past year. This is an important meeting and I hope you will plan to attend. The meeting will be held at UUCM in the sanctuary and will also be available on Zoom.

We will be voting on three open positions for the 2022/23 Board of Trustees and two for the Nominating Committee. The candidates who are nominated for these positions are:

Vice President: René Wiley  
Treasurer: Gail Schulz  
Member at Large: TBD  
Nominating Committee: Claire Miller  
Nominating Committee: TBD

Brief biographies of each of the candidates will be available throughout May in the weekly e-Chalice.

Please join in supporting the work of the Board by participating in our governance process. We continue to be an active vital part of UUCM because of the support and involvement of members like you. I hope to see you there!

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.*

### MEET TWO CANDIDATES:

#### **RENE WILEY, RUNNING FOR VICE PRESIDENT:**

After moving to Nevada County 9 years ago, I sought Unitarian Universalism when our then small daughter asked for "church". It has been my happy realization that thriving UU community life was just what each of us needed to grow our hearts as a family. With a 15-year background in corporate banking project management, I value being able to meet the call of service to UUCM's mission. Whether it's creating a Three Sister's pumpkin patch for Religious Exploration, bringing in Our Whole Lives sex ed, or beautifying the property with Building and Grounds, I like a balance of grounded service with lots of vision! With courageous love, I hope to always be willing to answer the call to serve and help shape whatever comes next at UUCM.

#### **CLAIRE MILLER, RUNNING FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Claire Miller has been a member of UUCM since 2013, and a UU since 1978. She has been very active in a number of different roles – RE, Membership, social events, Youth Group, Member at Large, Building and Grounds, Pledge Secretary, Nominating Committee, Choir, Stewardship and Fund raising – spread over her 44 UU years and three communities. First Parish Church of Stow & Acton, MA, UU Fellowship of the Mountains in Reno, and UUCM.

Claire is glad that covid-19 appears to be getting under control, and is looking forward to reconnecting with friends old and new at UUCM.

# 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...*

## Music Team

### New Music-Related Opportunities

**Join Rev. Kevin in a conversation about music at UUCM** as we look ahead to staffing beyond Jordan's tenure. "I am wanting to approach the needs and the opportunity creatively, with an eye to great and moving music at UUCM, with a solid choir, enhanced incorporation of UUCM's amazing musicians, meaningful concert offerings, and regular inclusion of marvelous outside musicians. There are different ways this can be staffed successfully. What is your vision and what are your ideas, about any or all of it?"

**Join Rev. Kevin for a live conversation on Sunday, May 15, from 12:15-1:30 (at UUCM and Zoom), or send Rev. Kevin your thoughts in writing before then.**

**Be part of a new Music Team** (nee "music committee") to support great, effective, fun, and moving music at UUCM, to support music staff, and to imagine and organize musical events outside of Sunday services – concerts, sing-alongs, drum circles, etc. Maybe this is the way you feel drawn to bring your interests and gifts to UUCM right now.

**Help celebrate Jordan's musical ministry with UUCM.** Rev. Kevin is looking for a few more people to help imagine and plan how to say "thank you, farewell, and we wish you well on your journey." Jordan's final active Sunday with UUCM will be June 12, Music Sunday. How about you?

## Hospitality Team

### Be Part of the Hospitality Team

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.

Elizabeth Rose has gotten things rolling. Are you willing to sign up to help on given Sundays? To bring some goodies, when the time comes? To be part of an organizing team? Please contact [hospitality@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:hospitality@uugrassvalley.org).

## Sunday Greeters

### Be a Sunday Greeter!

**WELCOME PEOPLE TO THE SERVICE.**

**We are 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.** 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 evolving [Current Greeter Job Description](#).

**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.

These are great ways to contribute to the well-being of this community. Contact Laura Harter at [Welcome@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Welcome@uugrassvalley.org).

## Library Team

Maybe being part of our **Library Team** is just your thing, whether for you that means helping with an initial pass at sorting through the books, being part of a small team to manage the library this coming "church year," or doing data entry.

We're happy to announce that Phil Horning will be working with the Art and Aesthetic teams to curate the quarterly art displays in the library, a role Eileen Hale had held for several years pre-pandemic. Thank you, Eileen, Phil, and Robin!

Interested in the library effort? Please contact Rev. Kevin at [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org).







Maryann Currington,  
Leader, Stewardship Team

## Stewardship

And remember, your pledge is confidential and must be authorized by your signature. Please do not email, text or verbally tell someone your pledge amount. We need for you to fill out the pledge form and sign it to be counted as an official pledge.

### Keep the Pledges Flowing In...

One of the rewards of being on the Stewardship Team is witnessing first-hand the generosity of our community each year at pledge time. As we receive each of your pledges, we are grateful for your commitment to "keep our river flowing."

As of the close of this year's campaign in April, we have received 60% of expected pledges. This is a respectable number, but it means that 40% of our membership still have not returned their pledge documents. That is not such a good number. To develop UUCM's 2022-2023 budget, the Finance Team needs the full picture of what we will have to work with: we need 100% of the pledges returned. With all our pledges in, we will be able to move toward our goals: grow with technology, hire sufficient staff, and support and increase the impact of our Social Justice Team's in the wider community. Without them, we will not be prepared to carry out plans or deal with unexpected challenges.

So...

If you have not sent in your pledge form in, we need to hear from you now! If you have misplaced your form, please call or text Maryann Currington at (530) 307-9663 or email to: [murrington1944@gmail.com](mailto: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.

*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](https://paypal.me/uucm) (Please leave a note as to whether your offering is for your pledge, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- For a general offering donation, you may text your amount to 833-579-0483. 25% will automatically go to our Pass-the-Plate partner.

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





## Parish Care

Gwen Eymann  
Leader, UUCM Parish Care Team

*By Jenny Dewey, Member, UUCM Parish Caring Team*

Spring in winter and winter in spring. Do I have that right? We've waited and wondered about rainfall for months, wrinkling our brows over the warm weather that encourages the blooming of fragile blossoms. These blossoms then fall prey to freezing nights and we cannot help but wonder what Mother Nature has in store for us.

Something we can count on is Mother Nature having patterns, comings and goings we'd like to think we can anticipate. Beware the arrogance of this. Be ready to throw covers over your fragile vegetable starts, only pull them off the next day. The ultimate results tend to be predictable while how we got to these results may remain a mystery. This is a metaphor for life, of course. We do like surprises, as long as they are not the grim and ghastly kind.

We gather our blooms and fruit, and we gather ourselves, and we welcome the chance to smile at one another and embrace each other in hugs. Fortunately, nobody has forgotten how to smile and hug.

Remember, too, while waiting for the next hug, that there are those among us needing care and assistance. The Caring Team keeps a watchful eye on members of the congregation experiencing difficult episodes in their lives. Hugging might still be off the list for some, but all manner of other ways to help are available to those willing. Please see the link below for a list of possible ways to join the work of the Caring Team.

[Caring Team Member Resource Survey](#)

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



## Lay Pastoral Care Team

### Are You Facing a Challenge in Your Life?

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

Please reach out to Rev. Kevin ([minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org) or (231) 883-1058) or a member of the Lay Pastoral Care Team when you are facing difficult and stressful portions of your journey and if you feel that a companioning presence from one of our team members might be helpful to you.

### LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

George Dunstan, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, and Tom Wernigg





## Treasurer News

*Bob Packard*  
*UUCM Treasurer*

### *The Endowment Fund – Where Does the Money Come From?*

My previous Endowment Fund articles briefly described our Endowment Fund and explained how it can be spent. The important takeaway is that it is self-sustaining. Only the earnings (interest, dividends) in the Fund can be spent, and the church can spend those funds on UUCM programs, local social justice programs, and facilities development, depending on the recommendations of the currently dormant Endowment Committee and approval by the Board. Here I'll explain how money comes into the fund in the first place.

People give to the Endowment Fund in one of two ways: Simple Gifts and Planned Giving. The difference between the two is that planned gifts are arranged in the present to be allocated at a future date. Commonly donated through a will or trust, planned gifts are usually granted once the donor has passed away. Planned gifts are usually part of the donors' estate plans, and simple gifts are made on the spur of the moment. Simple gifts comprise most of the gifts to the Endowment Fund but Planned Giving provides most of the money.

That's right. Simple Gifts can be any amount. They are normally not major gifts that require lots of thought and planning. All it takes to make a Simple Gift is an idea that one of us wants to commemorate with a check to the Endowment Fund. Some examples are the birth of a child, a birthday, a graduation, the heartfelt death of a member or of a relative of a member. These events are important milestones in the lives of our members and friends – often the things that are mentioned in our Sunday morning Joys and Sorrows. They strike an extra special nerve, and they move us to write a commemorative check.

Planned gifts on the other hand, reflect the overall impact UUCM or Unitarian Universalism has had on our life. When we look back on the things that have mattered most to us throughout our lives, it often dawns on us that nothing has helped us in times of happiness or sadness, stress or growth any more than this UU Community of the Mountains, and we remember that there is a good way to help ensure that it's there for the others who follow us. We may be able to make larger gifts at the ends of our lives because at that point we no longer have a need to save for future spending needs. Such a gift could be the proceeds from an insurance policy or it could be a provision in a will or testament, large or small.

Planned gifts are usually quietly planned for and announced to the Endowment Committee Chair or to the Treasurer so that we have foreknowledge of the donor's intent. We currently have a short list of expected donations like this. But sometimes these gifts come from out of the blue, too. The important thing is for the church to know what purpose is in the heart of the donor before it is too late for us to ask.  
Next month: the Committee.

- Bob



## Art & Aesthetics

*Robin Hart, Leader,*  
*Art & Aesthetics Team*

May's theme is Nurturing Beauty. With that in mind, the Art & Aesthetics team, in conjunction with the Worship team, are planning a special service celebrating art in many forms on Sunday, May 15th. The congregation is invited to send in photos of their personal art for a slide show to be shown at the service. Carol Fulkerson will be setting up an online link to send in your photo images. Look for info in the weekly eChalice and on UU general. The deadline for submission is May 9th.

We are starting to schedule rotating art shows in the library again for three months at a time. After many years of dedicated service, Eileen Hale has decided to step down as gallery curator. We want to thank Eileen for all the shows she has worked on with artists during her tenure as curator. Phil Horning is stepping into the curator's position and we will be having our first show featuring photographer and member Jim Bair starting on May 1st. If you are interested in showing your art in the library, we will have a sign up sheet in the room or you can contact Phil Horning.

The team met in person at the church in April to go over some projects for the interior space at the church since the backyard project is on hold. We were planning on putting a mural on the back side of the garage, but the city of Grass Valley requires a \$1,200.00 fee and a lengthy process to get the mural approved. We decided to scrub that idea due to the cost, so unfortunately there will be no mural project.

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

- Robin



# Do We Go to Church?

A Profile of Rene Marie Wiley by Jenny Dewey

Norah Wiley, daughter of UUCM members Steve and Rene, was seven years old when she asked her mother about going to church. Rene was perplexed, not sure how to answer. Norah was insistent.

"I want to go to church," she told her mother.

Rene realized she would have to acknowledge her daughter's desire for church, while she herself felt no such urge.

One day mother and daughter happened to be driving on Church Street. While passing the "houses of worship" Rene briefly described each one according to what she knew of them. Norah paid close attention while Rene chose her words carefully.

Norah became excited, waving out the window and "swimming" with her arms in the air.

"Look, look," she cried. "See the flag? See the rainbow?"

Rene responded by saying, "UUers are some of the best people on Earth. Just look at the colors on those flags."

And so began a relationship between the Wiley family and the UUCM church that has created growth spurts on both sides of the coin.

Rene wanted to attend church herself, but it was Norah's prodding that brought Rene's interest to the surface. Rene has a desire for community going back to childhood where she was raised by three strong, loving women. As she grew to adulthood, Rene held to a belief in the value of being around people she could consider extended family.



As she puts it herself, "I was always looking for people I wanted to be around." She wanted the same for Nora.

Steve Wiley took some urging before understanding his wife and daughter's desire to join UUCM. Rene was able to secure his approval by describing the importance of balance in their lives, a connection to a source of spirituality as well as day-to-day community participation.

Rene launched herself into UUCM activities with her usual infectious enthusiasm. She began by working on Buildings and Grounds and vacuuming chairs in Sanctuary. Her love of painting, more like an addiction, led her to revamping the entire interior of the building with fresh paint and vibrant colors. She had help with this, of course, but it was her drive and conviction that made it happen. She describes this work as wanting to "...turn our space into a welcoming home."

Much of what Rene has done is directly related to her hope that Norah is there, too, and not just a spectator. Anyone who has been attending UUCM for the last several years remembers Norah racing up and down the center aisle of the church, a free spirit with long brown hair flying.

For the last seven years Rene has expanded her activities within the community, taking on responsibilities well beyond the scope of her original expectations. Nora has benefited from being a part of the congregation, and Steve as well. We see him behind his drums and realize that he, too, is an integral part of UUCM, and that he, too, has many facets to his personality.



## Justice Team Update

*By Bob Miller, Co-Leader, Justice Team*

At their last monthly meeting the Justice Team had an interesting discussion about the roles of the Task Forces and the role of the Justice Team.

Should a Task Force expect participation in their campaigns from the Justice Team? Generally, they should not. The role of the Justice Team is administration. They work on the initiation of Task Forces and monitor their progress. They coordinate other Justice programs within UUCM. Members of the Justice Team may participate as individuals on a Task Force but there is no expectation that they do so.

What should you do? If you want to be active in justice issues at UUCM, and I hope you do, then join a Task Force. You currently have three to choose from. Since leaders change, you may ask Keith Johnson or Bob Miller to identify the best contact person for each Task Force.

If you want to strategize and plan justice programs at UUCM then join the Justice Team. We believe we still have work to do to make UUCM truly effective as a force for justice.

## Stop the Mine Task Force in Major Push Against Huge Threat

*By Jim Bair, STM Task Force Leader*

The Task Force has been exceptionally active testifying, writing letters to the Board of Supervisors, getting businesses to sign the petition to stop the mine, personing tables in public venues (our Briar Patch table was very popular!), putting up signs, and more.

### **PROGRESS ON TOP OBJECTIVE.**

To move toward our objective, we are scheduled to meet with Supervisor Sue Hoek, (District 4) Board Chairperson, on May 2. Of the five Supervisors, Sue, Heidi Hall, Ed Scofield, Dan Miller, and Hardy Bullock, Sue appears to be the most undecided.

Ed and Dan are very likely to vote for the Mine, and Heidi and Hardy are almost certainly to vote against it. Sue is likely the swing vote, but she is up for re-election. Lisa, if elected, is likely to vote against the mine. Subsequent personal meetings are to be with Hall and Scofield.

While UUCM may not endorse particular candidates, we can share where candidates stand on issues. Here are the candidates for June 7:



## Justice Warrior of the Month: Lisa Haden

*by Bernell Scott, Justice Team Member*

Our Justice Warrior this month is Lisa Haden. Her rich life started early when living in Costa Rica, Panama, and the Philippines with her parents. After they moved to Nevada County her formal education included Nevada Union High School, Sierra College, and UC Berkeley where she earned a degree in English. As a result, she has been a teacher's assistant, tutor, and proofreader. Also, she loves gardening and baking.

Lisa says she started doing justice work for her own sanity, to get to know her community and its people, and to contribute to society. Of the many nonprofits in our community she prefers working at the Interfaith Food Ministry. She appreciates the different kinds of people there - all working to get nutritious food to people. The IFM volunteers have all kinds of conversations, and they realize they like each other and share interests and sentiments even though they may have different backgrounds. Her experience there also has a beneficial effect on her faith which is directly tied to her faith in humanity.

UUCM fulfills the need for justice in her life, because the UU Principles require action as well as reflection. She feels that the congregation provides education, inspiration, and focus on the opportunities to work together. She is especially impressed with the members who write letters and postcards. Also, she was inspired by the beautiful reading of Dr. Martin Luther King's Landmark Speech at the Rood Center on April 4th by so many in our community.

*Thank you, Lisa, for sharing your commitment to justice so deeply and beautifully.*

*Continued on next page*

## Justice News

Dist. 3: Valentina Masterz, Patti Ingram Spencer, Lisa Swarthout  
Dist. 4: Calvin Clark, Susan Hoek

Those underlined are predicted to oppose the Mine; our impression is that Clark is in QAnon and is anti-government, and Masterz has no experience (restaurant owner) but vocally opposes the Mine [and thus will be barred from voting on it if she were to be elected].

### HUNDREDS OF COMMENTS DELIVERED.

Despite the overwhelming opposition expressed in comments on the DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) there is still danger that political predisposition will prevail in the Board vote. We pushed hard to get comments written and attendance at the County Planning Commission special hearing, and helped get one of the largest turn-outs ever to a Planning Commission meeting: about 450 citizens overflowed the County meeting facilities on March 24.

Despite forcing the DEIR to be rewritten because it didn't provide valid mitigations of dozens of negative impacts, the Mine's revised version could still be approved by the Board of Supervisors in a few months.

### BACKROOM INTRIGUE.

Frank Lawrence, our Nisenan attorney, wrote a scathing legal DEIR comment for the Nisenan. Even though State law requires that the Tribe be consulted on matters impacting their ancestral land, they were not. The CEO of Rise Mine, Ben Mossman, responded with a private email to the County Planners and Frank saying, *"The county is so naive in trying to assist this group to gain status. Welcome to Canada."* There has been outrage!

### BE ACTIVE NOW.

Soon the County's Economic Impact Study will be released and we need to be ready for public hearings. Claims of economic value by the Mine are refutable, but we have to get the word out. Letters and testimony to the Board on economics are crucial at this time. There are some persons who believe that jobs and County revenue are worth the risk of lethal air pollution, water and well loss, serious noise, explosives, traffic, and environmental destruction. Let's continue to be a voice against falsehoods.

## Share the Plate

Thanks to UUCM members and friends who made donations in March, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#), will receive **\$998.50** to support its work to feed the hungry and reduce food insecurity in Nevada County!

We are currently completing April collections for [Citizens for Choice](#), which provides compassionate, confidential, non-judgmental reproductive health care services for adults and teens through [The Clinic!](#) in Grass Valley.



Our May partner, [Child Advocates of Nevada County](#) recruits, trains and supports Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities. Child Advocates also provides healthy baby home visits, through which new and expecting parents learn to solve problems, manage, stress, and enjoy and understand their child at every stage, from infancy to kindergarten.

Thank you for your compassion- and justice-centered generosity.



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org)

### HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 10:30 AM

The May meeting of the UUCM Humanist Discussion Group will be on Wednesday, May 4th at 10:30 IN PERSON at UUCM.

Note that we are reverting to what used to be our routine starting time. We will also be Zooming the meeting for anyone who isn't able or prefers not to meet in person and here's the Zoom link: [Humanist Zoom Meeting](#)

The topic for May is academic freedom and free speech.

Here is an article on the topic

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/04/11/uva-pence-free-speech/>

I hope to greet you in person or say hello via Zoom on May 4th. To be added to the Humanism Discussion Group email list, please contact George Dunstan: [Humanism@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Humanism@uugrassvalley.org)

### WALKING GROUP

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

### WOMEN'S CIRCLE POTLUCK – 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. Last month we had our first potluck meeting at UUCM in two years! Come join us! We will continue to potluck unless we are advised to discontinue again. If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please send an

email to Carol Fulkerson at: [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) and she will add you. You'll get monthly updates and reminders of our meetings.

### MEN'S GROUPS - VIA ZOOM

Men gather to enjoy each others' company.

Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 AM, and/or

Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 AM.

Contact for either group: [mensgroup@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:mensgroup@uugrassvalley.org)





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

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

### May: Nurturing Beauty

By Jo Waters, Leader, UUCM Family Ministry Team

The saying goes that April showers bring May flowers and we definitely had showers in April. Although the flowers had already started, I believe May will be truly beautiful as befits our theme of Nurturing Beauty. Let's all enjoy the season before the summer heat arrives in earnest.



### FAMILY MINISTRY

In Family Ministry, we will continue with our monthly Kids Connection on May 1 at 10:30 AM, starting upstairs.

**On May 8, Mother's Day**, we will hold a Family Ministry Needs Assessment event at the church from 2-4 PM. All families are welcome to attend and voice your desires for Family Ministry as we move into a more post-covid world. Refreshments will be provided.

**May 15 is the next All Ages Service** after which we will hold another potluck gathering for families and those who enjoy being around young people. Details to come in the echalice.

### SUMMER SERVICE GARDEN

Looking ahead to the summer, we plan to create a Service Garden in the back yard to grow vegetables to donate to the Mutual Aid distribution. We will need lots of donations of both supplies and time to make this a success. Please let any of the team know if gardening is something you would like to participate in. Specific asks will be made as we get clearer about our needs.

### 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](#)



## Full Community Education



### Our May Theme: *NURTURING BEAUTY*

Beauty.  
We appreciate it.  
How could we not?  
We wonder at it.  
Get absorbed in it.

Analyze it, if it's got a frame around it.

We make it.  
Grow it.  
Point at it.  
Collect it.  
Share it.  
Save it.

But how often do we listen to it?

How often do we ask, "What is it trying to get me to hear?"

Rather than, "Do I like it or not?"

It's just so hard to step outside  
our mangled view of the world  
that sees everything in the light of consumption.  
Not everything is here for our possession.  
Not everything is here to entertain us.  
Not everything is meant to be put to use, even you.

We must find our way back,  
to those questions that were once alive  
but now are buried deep:  
"What if beauty is here to make us wise?"  
"What if beauty is the way the sacred speaks?"

Yes! Yes! It does so much more than decorate.  
It demands. It calls. It asks for commitment.  
It doesn't just say "Love and appreciate me."  
It says "Protect me! Fight for me!"  
It steps out in front of us and points to a precious world  
that needs our help.  
It paints a picture of new ways of living  
and declares, "Follow me there!"

It says, "Even in hell holes I find a way to grow."  
It sings, "This world was made for more than work."  
It whispers, "Use me to heal."  
It pleads, "Nurture a new relationship with me. One that  
allows me to talk!"

So, what is it saying to you?

### UPCOMING SOUL MATTERS THEMES FOR 2022

May: Nurturing Beauty  
June: Celebrating Blessings

## Sunday Book Group

### UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 1:00 PM AS LISTED

Here are the Book Group selections for May of 2022 until  
January of 2023:

May 1	<i>Stones for Ibarra</i> by Harriet Doerr
June 5	<i>The Paris Library</i> by Janet Skeslien Charles
July 3	<i>The Heights</i> by Louise Candlish
August 7	<i>Madame Secretary</i> by Madeleine K. Albright
September 4	<i>The Ministry for the Future</i> by Kim Stanley Robinson
October 2	<i>Crome Yellow</i> by Aldous Huxley
November 6	<i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i> by Isabel Wilkerson
December 4	<i>Once There Were Wolves</i> by Charlotte McConaghy
January 8	<i>A Country Doctor</i> by Jane Orne Jewett



Starting in May, all meetings will be scheduled for the  
first Sunday at 1:00 PM, and held at UUCM, unless noted  
otherwise. All are welcome to join for any oral discussions. To  
request to join via Zoom, please provide at least one week's  
notice. Please contact Theresa Houtman at (530) 277-9294 or  
[BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org) if you have any questions,  
or wish to be added to the email list.

# May 2022 Calendar of Events at UUCM

DATE DAY TIME EVENT DESCRIPTION

## MAY 2022

*Please note: Most meetings and services are being offered in person, but also held by Zoom to allow folks to attend remotely. Watch for links and meeting numbers through your email from UUGeneral or the meeting hosts and updates on on-site events.*

1	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		10:30 AM	Kids' Connection
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
		12:30 PM	Sunday Book Group
2	Monday	4:00 PM	Stop the Mine Task Force
3	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
		10:30 AM	Habitat for Humanity Lunches
		4:00 PM	Caring Team Meeting
4	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		11:00 AM	Humanism Discussion Group
		6:00 PM	Worship Team
5	Thursday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		7:00 PM	Singing Meditation Circle
6	Friday	10:00 AM	Board Budget Meeting
8	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
9	Monday	6:00 PM	Women's Circle Gathering
10	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
11	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		4:30 PM	Ministry Council Meeting
12	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

14	Saturday	1:00 PM	Spirituality Sharing Circle (Zoom)
		3:00 PM	Spirituality Sharing Circle
15	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
17	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
18	Wednesday	10:30 AM	Open Board of Trustees Mtg
		5:00 PM	Justice Team Meeting
19	Thursday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
21	Saturday	8:00 AM	Building and Grounds Work Party
22	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
			Soup Lunch
		1:00 PM	Community Business Meeting
24	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine
25	Wednesday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
26	Thursday	8:30 AM	Men's Group
		8:30 AM	Walking Group/Meet @ Houtmans'
		10:30 AM	Writers' Group
29	Sunday	10:30 AM	Sunday Service
		12:00 PM	Drop-in Support Circle
31	Tuesday	8:30 AM	Walking Group/Northstar Mine





## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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

**Sunday Services are held at 10:30 AM by Zoom or on-site**  
**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](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

### **UUCM STAFF MEMBERS**

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Administrator*

Jordan Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

### **E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

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

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

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

### **TELEPHONE**

530.274.1661

530.274.1675

530.274.1675

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

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

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

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

### **VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS:**

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

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