

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

September 2022

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

*If you are feeling unwell or have been exposed to COVID,
please attend online.*

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 6833 or 1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

• • See Page 13 for Kid-Centered Activities • •

SEPTEMBER THEME:

The Path of Belonging

Sept. 4 *Life is a Spiritual Practice:
Living Our Principles*
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Gail Johnson Vaughan,
Worship Associate

*We both conclude our summer series focused on the UU Principles
and look toward our September theme of Belonging by asking what
our UU Principles ask of us day in and day out.*

Sept. 11 *The Path of Belonging*
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Gail Johnson Vaughan,
Worship Associate

*Do we long to belong? What does it mean to belong? Is it a
destination or perhaps a journey? Are we on the path or perhaps
we are the path. Join us as we explore this surprisingly provocative
subject.*

Sept. 18 *With Whom You Belong*
Lindsay Dunckel, Worship Leader,
with Randy McKean, Worship Associate

*How does it feel when you hold tight to belonging? When you give it
room to breathe? Come explore what a sense of abundance can do
for our sense of belonging.*

Sept. 25 *Beyond Belonging*
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Randy McKean,
Worship Associate

*You've found a place where you feel welcome, what next? With Great
Belonging does there also come Great Responsibility? We explore the
notion that Belonging encourages us to actively participate as our
true selves and to extend its blessings to the greater community.*

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Belonging. Now there's a timely theme!

After both politics and pandemics have significantly challenged our visceral sense of connection, belonging – at least in terms of human groups – has taken on new resonance and importance. We are being asked to notice and perhaps to rethink what belonging means to us, and why.

As a gay, white, cis-gendered, introverted, midwestern, raised-Catholic, 5/7ths vegan, musical, politically progressive, male, INTP, Enneagram 5, 2nd oldest, gardening, conflict-avoidant, cake-decorating, origami-folding, Unitarian Universalist minister, I am aware that various layers of identity can contribute or become hindrances to a sense of belonging in given circles and settings.

I think often of the overlapping circles of a Venn diagram, aware that the greater the number of overlaps and the greater the area of the shared overlap, the more I feel like I belong among particular sets of others. The thing is, it's never a complete overlap, and so belonging always has its edges. Feeling like we belong, especially in progressive religious communities like this one, means that we share enough overlap to sense our similarities and affinities, AND requires that we have ways to hold and navigate the differences, the places we don't overlap.

In a conversation about our upcoming Sabbatical/Renewal time and about my desire to help the congregation be ready to find its way through any angst-driven behavior that arises while we are apart, someone observed that the covenants we use to set shared expectations around behavior are only useful if they are honored. Useful only if there are ways (and only if people use them) to lovingly call people back to those covenants when their behavior has strayed outside of them.

Only useful if there is a heart-centered way to reconcile after harm is done. Otherwise, our covenants, our promises, are meaningless sets of words.

The full theme of this month is "the challenge and the path of belonging." It recognizes that belonging is demanding even as it bestows, and that belonging is a continual journey. A sense of belonging can be strengthened or weakened at any and every point along the way.

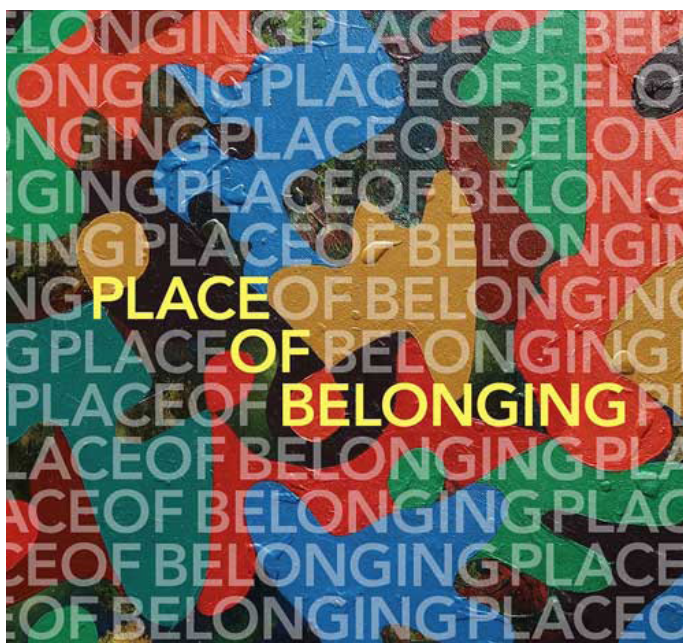
Our services this month will invite us to attend to our personal and shared senses of belonging, as well as our willingness to

help others belong. They will, inevitably, ask us to notice and give attention to our sense of belonging at UUCM, and to UUCM's covenant. All of the shifts in our expectations and identities in these past few years will contribute to our shared imagining of what "belonging" means now and here, for the community as a whole and for you personally.

May our upcoming sabbatical/renewal times inform our conversations and our paths powerfully.

With care,

– Rev. Kevin



SABBATICAL/RENEWAL LEAVE DATES:

Part 1 – October 3 – November 14

Part 2 – January 16 – May 31

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



*Gail Schulz, Treasurer,
UUCM Board of Trustees*

Board of Trustees

Starting this month, those of us who have the pleasure of serving on your Board of Trustees will each take a turn writing this column. I'm the lucky one to be doing it for this month. Let me introduce myself. I'm Gail Schulz, your Treasurer since July 1 of this year. The year before that I was Vice-President, and the year before that Chair of the Finance Committee. As a Board member, I also have been liaison and sometimes Chair of the Facilities Exploration Committee. I've been a UU for over 60 years, but have only been with you here in Grass Valley since November, 2019. Just in time to meet some of you, sign the membership book, start to get involved, and then take to Zoom for most of the next two years!

I find it rewarding to serve on your Board of Trustees. People with different skills and perspectives, but all of us trying to do our best for UUCM and to serve our mission and vision, and even have some fun while doing it!

The exciting thing for me as your Treasurer this year is working to get our new data management system up and running. Our switch to the new system took place July 1, after over a year of hard work from our implementation team. Since we now have more staff time available, we have been able to bring our bookkeeping work in house, which gives us greater accuracy, timeliness, and better control over our finances. I also have set a goal of getting our contributors better reports, ideally every quarter. With these changes, being Treasurer is looking to be a bit less time consuming than it has been for the last few years. And our Finance Chair can hopefully turn to policy development and financial review, which will serve all of us well.

Putting on my other hat, with the Facilities Exploration Committee, we have been hard at work, and look forward to seeing many of you at our September 24 workshop. We will bring you up to date with what we have learned about our building, its potential and its limitations, and ask you to share with us your thoughts and aspirations about how we can best mesh our mission and values with our space requirements over the next decades.

Then after the workshop, starting at 4:30 PM, we hope to have a fun bon voyage for Rev. Kevin as he gets ready to head out on October 3 for the fall six weeks of his renewal leave year. Please plan to come! (More details about this day on page 5.)

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

Pam Kisor	<i>President</i>
Rene Wiley	<i>Vice-President</i>
Gail Schulz	<i>Treasurer</i>
OPEN	<i>Secretary</i>

Members at Large:

Taylor Carey, Janet Dunstan and Lisa Haden

UUCM Committees:

Finance • Governance • Endowment
Nominating

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.

Please Join an 8th Principle Discussion

*By Janet Dunstan,
UUCM 8th Principle Coordinator*



Find out more about UUA's proposed 8th Principle!
Here are three opportunities for discussion this Fall:

Saturday, September 10, 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Tuesday, October 18, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Wednesday, October 26 (via Zoom) 6:00 to 8:00 PM

You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions. No presentations will be made so our time will be devoted to exploring a few thought-provoking questions.

To prepare for discussion, check out the list of resources on our website ([8th Principle](#)). If you have a question you'd like to explore, please email me and I will add it to the list. janetldunstan@gmail.com



Facilities Exploration

Gail Schulz, Leader
Facilities Exploration Team

Facilities Exploration presents a September 24 Workshop ...

Save Saturday, September 24 for two great events – The Facilities Exploration Committee is sponsoring a facilitated workshop both to bring you up to date on what we have learned about our church home, its potential and problems, and to engage you in how we can match our facilities to our mission, vision, and programs. This will be a jumping off point to further exploration of how we can best meet our needs over the next 25 years, starting from where we are right now!

The workshop will begin at 1:00 PM and conclude at 4:00 PM. on Saturday, September 24.

...Followed by a Fun " Bon Voyage" Party for Rev. Kevin

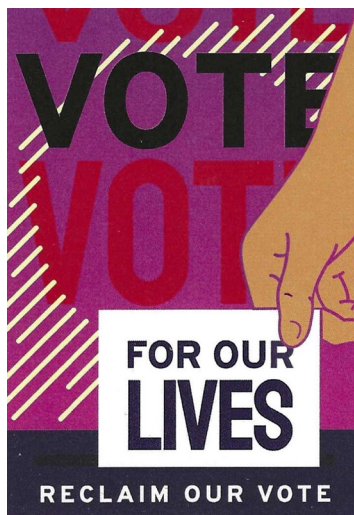
As an added attraction, starting at 4:30 PM, we hope all are able to join us as we wish a joyful **BON VOYAGE TO REV. KEVIN** as he prepares to start his 6-week Fall Renewal Leave beginning on Monday, October 3.

As we get closer to the event, we will be requesting RSVP's to help our planning. Watch for updates!

YOUR FACILITIES EXPLORATION TEAM:
Jeff Gold, Wally Holtan, Joel Houtman,
Gail Johnson Vaughan,
and Gail Schulz



Vote For Our Lives



Postcard Campaign Update

By Gail Johnson Vaughan,
Bending the Arc Task Force
Initiative #4 Coordinator

GETTING OUT THE VOTE POSTCARDS:

We're now hard at work to get registered Black infrequent voters in Virginia to vote in the General Election – with an emphasis on early voting. Pick up your packets on Sundays or Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to noon. If you need help getting yours, email Gail JV at gail@uugrassvalley.org.

WHY VIRGINIA?

The last election changed the balance of decision makers in favor of voting restrictions. This election matters a lot in correcting that.

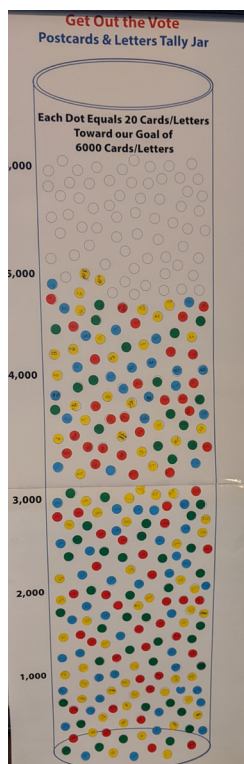
Only want to do a few postcards? Join our weekly pre and post service postcard parties in the UUCM library

POSTCARD WRITING TIPS:

1. Don't wait to start.
2. Even putting in 5 minutes a day will get you done soon.
3. If you are using colors for your postcards try this trick. Do the whole pile of cards one color at a time. Seems like it goes much faster.
4. If you are not using colors please consider underlining or highlighting the words bolded in the script supplied in your packet.

TEXTING:

Writing postcards not your thing but still want to help? Structured texting campaign lets you text 500-1000 pre-written texts per hour. Go to: centerforcommonground.org/texting





Stewardship

*Maryann Currington,
Leader, Stewardship Team*

Recently, our Stewardship Team met to review our objectives, and develop a plan for this church year. It is always invigorating and inspiring to meet with each other, and this meeting was exceptional. After two years as a team, leading two pledge campaigns while meeting the challenge of Covid restrictions, we have a strong new vision of our role in our UUCM community.

First, we recognize that all UUCM members are stewards of our UUCM community, in the sense of the word that "steward" means to "take care of." It is one facet of the Stewardship Team to encourage this responsibility and inspire in our members a life of generosity.

Second, stewardship is not just a two-months-a-year pledge campaign. It is a year-round commitment to strengthen the relationship that members have to our mission, our values, and to each other.

Finally, we realize the very important work of stewardship cannot be done by team members alone: it must be shared with the minister, committees, teams, the Board of UUCM and you. We want to establish a team of stewards who will be integral to making members feel connected and engaged with the experience of UUCM all year-round.

Stewardship Team is developing this year's team calendar based on this vision. It will have much of what has been done in the past and, more exciting, a program to encourage stronger relationships between members. We all acknowledge that Covid restrictions have put a strain on interpersonal relationships. Stay tuned for more details.

Please continue to give to your pledge! This is an important year for us to continue to be strong and generous. Our immediate community needs our support, and the world needs our view of compassion and inclusivity.

Join us this year! If you wish to find out more about our Team and its work, please contact me, Maryann Currington, at (530) 307-9663 or murrington1944@gmail.com. We have a fun and energetic group that embraces new members at any time.

With Love and Respect,

-Maryann

Share the Plate

UUCM's July Share the Plate recipient, [Nevada County Habitat for Humanity](#), will receive \$766.50 thanks to generous UUCM members, friends and visitors. Those weekly donations add up! Thank you, all.

We're just now finishing up collections for our August partner, [Color Me Human](#).



Our September Share the Plate recipient is [Sierra Streams Institute](#). Through research, restoration, education, and community science, Sierra Streams institute promotes scientific knowledge and stewardship of Sierra Nevada watersheds that share the challenges resulting from a century and a half of gold mining, development, and agriculture. UUCM's own Lang Waters serves as the president of SSL's board!

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

Yuba River Cleanup

Register to Volunteer for the 25th Annual Yuba River Cleanup

For a quarter of a century, volunteers have removed more than 160 tons of trash and recycling from our waterways. This year, we are hosting the Yuba River Cleanup from September 10-17. You can join the traditional community cleanup on the 17th, or schedule a self-guided cleanup for the week prior.



JOIN US FOR A VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY
at the South Yuba State Park's Bridgeport Corssing on
September 17 for those who participated in the clean up.

Lunch is FREE for volunteers registered by September 12th.

Register at: yubariver.org



Parish Care

Gwen Eymann
Leader, UUCM Parish Care Team

By Jenny Dewey, Member, UUCM Parish Caring Team

Perhaps you've heard the story about the little boy who kept saying "I don't care!" And then a lion ate him. And then his parents took the lion, with the little boy inside, to a doctor. The doctor said there was nothing he could do. The little boy, meanwhile, kept saying, "I don't care!"

The lion got tired of the whole situation and threw up the little boy. When this happened, the little boy changed his tune. He started saying "I do care!"

How many of us find ourselves saying "I don't care!" especially these days when caring is risky? Fortunately, UUCM has a Parish Caring Team with members who find active ways to care. Interested in saying "I do care"? An online, easy to fill in survey is available where you can check off the ways you'd like to serve our UUCM community. Here is the link:

[PARISH CARE SURVEY](#)

You'll see there are many ways to contribute! Please fill in the form or contact caring@uucmgrassvalley.org to reach out to a member of the team.

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



Lay Pastoral Care Team

Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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 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

Neighborhood Fire Clusters

Neighborhood Fire Prep Clusters Plan Potluck Gatherings for September and October

By Shannon Dooley-Miller, Membership Team

Members and Friends of UUCM are being asked to gather in September or October for a potluck and connection with their neighborhood fire cluster group. UUCM's 13 fire cluster groups are organized geographically and were put together so that members can offer support to each other in the event of a fire affecting their fire zone. Of course, that support and connection are not limited to times of fire! If one cluster's experience is any indication, you'll have a wonderful, delicious, and meaningful time together.

An email will be sent to each Fire Cluster Group encouraging you to arrange a potluck gathering for some fun and connection. Perhaps a picnic gathering at a local park, someone's home, or even a gathering at UUCM. It will be necessary for the willingness of a person or two from each group to take the organizing lead for their group's gathering. Maybe you? Imagine the fun, the connection, and the possibilities. We can offer you support in thinking it through and planning.

Stay tuned as these cluster gatherings take shape.



Art and Aesthetics Team

*Robin Hart, Leader,
Art & Aesthetics Team*

The Aesthetics Team will meet this month to start planning for the new church year and anticipate the change of seasons from summer to fall. We are hoping to recruit a few new members this year to help us make the environment of UUCM more spiritually and aesthetically pleasing to our congregation. If you are interested in helping with our efforts, please contact us at artteam@uugrassvalley.org

We are very pleased that to have filled the library Art Shows'

schedule for the rest of this year and into 2023, as follows:

- Jillian Roberts – Ceramics – July 15 to September 15
- Laura Harter – Acrylic Paintings – September 15 to November 15
- Jenny Dewey and Carmen Riley – Mixed Media – November 15 to January 15
- Barbara Chesnut – Wall Quilts – January 15 to March 15

Take care, stay cool, and keep a rainbow in your hearts!

- Robin



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY FOR *Jillian Roberts*

I was born and grew up in Santa Barbara. I moved away to attend university at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo but moved back and graduated from UCSB with a degree in Sociology.

Growing up I was drawn to hatha yoga, meditation,

and eastern religions. During my senior year of high school, I took Comparative Religions and Ceramics; Art and the peace I found in meditation were my favorite things. At UCSB, I studied Native American religions, Taoism, Zen Buddhism, as well as drawing and psychology.

A few days after my graduation from UCSB, there was a huge fire, the Paint Fire. In one night, 600 homes burned down. The house where I lived was one of them. So, it was time to build my life on something more permanent than this physical world where everything I owned could be gone in a moment. I set out on a spiritual quest to find my spiritual family, my spiritual home.

After much inner and outer searching, I found the Ananda Community in Nevada City. I took their Yoga Teacher Training Course and was hooked. This was the home I had been searching for. Over the next year, I moved permanently to the Ananda Village here on the N. San Juan Ridge. I stayed for more than 22 years, taking my postulant, novice, and life vows. I loved it.

When it was time to leave, I moved to Grass Valley and asked my god of love and kindness "What now?" The one spark of interest and joy was that I would finally take a ceramics class at Sierra College. It was not easy, but I felt at home with clay.

I took four classes at Sierra College and studied with a local potter for a year. I found an inexpensive kiln and wheel on Craigslist and set up a studio in my garage. This was a time of my children having

to come and get me to cook for them and take care of them. I would get lost in clay and making glazes. Fortunately, I have persistent children, who were very clever at getting my attention and dragging me back to the house, so they were never neglected.

During the pandemic, I found a great teacher online, Ken Turner. He gave Zoom classes and had special guest presentations of some of the best ceramic artists in the world, live from their own studios. It was fantastic! My work took on a whole new life as I stretched myself with this new inspiration and instruction.

This showing at UUCM is what I have come to through the journey of Covid seclusion and Zooming with great world artists. I love the look and feel of burnished red clay. The glazes remind me of water flowing through and over the earth and are applied by pouring glaze over the bisqued vessels, so the movement of liquid matter is captured and fired on permanently.

The name of my pottery is Quiet Earth Pottery. This name came to me in meditation in the forest. I found it later in a Gaelic poem as a blessing, "Great peace of the quiet earth to you." It is how I feel about each of these ceramic pieces. It is my love of the great peace of the quiet earth that I am sending out into the world in these vessels to remind us of what truly is.



UUCM All Ages Camping Trip

A Successful 2022 UUCM Camping Trip

By René Wiley

Hats off to Shannon Dooley-Miller who coordinated this year's trip to Plumas-Eureka State Park at the Jamison Creek Campground! This gorgeous spot near Graeagle, California and about two hours away, is a wonderful historic park complete with a mining town, weekend living history exhibits, Jamison Creek, and glorious trails to the cathedral views of the Feather River Canyon beyond. The nearby lakes basin has fishing, swimming, and kayaking.

Campers were: Christy Barden, Shannon and Andy Dooley-Miller, Randy McKean and Lindsay Dunkel, George and Janet Dunstan, Elizabeth Rose, Leonna Sapphire, and Steve, Rene, and Norah Wiley.

The pine air, beautiful surroundings, and scurrying chipmunks welcomed all upon arrival. Helping friends made quick work of unloading gear and setting up tents. All-important sacred space was declared with the choosing of a campfire gathering spot and the drawing of a colorful chalice drawn with sidewalk chalk at the entrance of our group sites. Let the relaxation begin!

The morning found our campers doing yoga on the bridge over the creek. Daytime fun included picnicking at Grass Lake, kayaking, hiking to the museum, resting in the shade, and trekking to alpine lakes.

Randy brought his banjo and Shannon passed a percussion basket for making music. Every kind of camp song, pop song, as well as laughter were lifted to the tops of the trees! Norah kept the custom ordered s'mores coming and the campfire Telephone Game alive.



A build-a-story game was invited by Beth with each camper introducing an element or a twist that eventually culminated in a story with a powerful titanium chalice, an aquatic space-Prius, and UU heroes championing world peace! The tale was inspired by the day's cautionary tale turned, ahem, "Quest" by an intrepid band of four UUCM hikers. This woefully unprepared and over-confident group sought further alpine lakes to swim in, beyond their fitness level and water supplies. Luckily, they were successful and enjoyed the chilly swim! Miraculously, they managed to get safely back in time for dinner!

...and what a delicious potluck dinner it was! The shared grill and variety of sides were plentiful.

On Sunday, following juicy blueberry pancakes made by Andy, the group circled 'round the area and sang hymns with Leonna as choir director. Shannon read from a recent article by UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray and led a follow up discussion about learning from the past together as we grow to the edges of love in action. We talked about the vote for the 8th principle at GA next year and welcome the changes we need to live our values. We sang a rousing camp version of "Do When the Spirit Says Do"! The circle was closed with heartfelt gratitude for each other, the memories that were made, reconnecting with nature and all of our Beloved Community at UUCM.

Watch for Spring announcements to join next year's UUCM Camping Trip!

"The best time I've ever had camping."
– Norah W.

"I forgot what a blast it is to camp with friends!"
– Lindsay D.

Passion for Running

A Profile of Gene Gilligan by Jenny Dewey

Gene Gilligan describes himself as a middling student throughout his early education. He reached high school and got serious about running. Running was his passion, so much so he determined to make it through school, never mind the academic difficulties, because it allowed him to be part of a running team.

Raised a Catholic, Gene was exposed to an excessive emphasis on Hell, and the likelihood he was bound for this place. He could not grasp the concept. In his own words he says, "I couldn't believe in Hell until I got there..."

As a recovering Catholic Gene was exposed to several religious faiths. Meeting Leisa Huyck was a turning point in his journey toward Unitarian Universalism. In an spin bike class, he noticed a bright yellow bike near him and was struck by the color, so unlike other bikes in the room. He made friends with the woman on the bike, who turned out to be Leisa Huyck. The two became fast friends.

More to the point, Leisa urged Gene to investigate the UUCM community and almost immediately he describes feeling "At peace..."

All the while Gene kept running. He says becoming



Gene Gilligan with his great grandson, Kairo

a running coach changed his life and gave him a sense of purpose. A shy and self-effacing person, Gene found that kids helped him be decisive and made it easier for him to share feelings with others. He describes working with kids as providing him with a shared community.

He created a thirty-year career investing time and energy working with special education kids. In the present day he coaches beginning runners three times a week.

Becoming a member of the UUCM community has deepened and broadened Gene's sense of shared community. His particular joy is the Soul Matters Circle as the meetings allow for

"good listening" and "positive dialogue."

All attendees of UUCM services know Gene as a greeter, a position Leisa was certain would be a perfect fit for him.

Clearly Gene Gilligan is a man of convictions and passion. Beneath a shy exterior, a sometimes-nervous demeanor, is a true believer. He has lived his life according to his own rules and made it work, all the while living up to his teenaged determination to be a runner.

Justice News and Activities

Join Us for Monthly Justice Nights

By Bob Miller, Justice Team Co-Chair

Plan to feed your body and soul and create a world more just by attending a Justice Night potluck and discussion every month. The dates may vary but the Justice Team is intent on offering one every month. We will follow best practices to contain Covid-19 by offering an outside dining option, encouraging the wearing of masks, and creating good ventilation. Initially we will also offer participation by Zoom.

Wednesday, August 31, 5:30 PM EVs and the Clean Energy Economy

There is probably an Electric Vehicle in your future. Come and get the real scoop on these vehicles from your fellow UUs, and guests.



HERE IS YOUR PANEL:

Bob Branstrom	Toyota RAV4 Plug in hybrid and ebike
Cheryl Branch	Chevrolet Bolt EV
Bobbie & Greg Cane	Toyota hydrogen fueled vehicle
Gail Schultz	Tesla Model Y, dual motor

We will ask each panel member to make a brief introduction and then respond to your comments and questions.

You might want to ask the following questions:

- What is the cost of an EV now and in the future?
- Did you receive any rebates when you bought yours?
- Where and how often do you choose to charge your vehicle?
- How long does it take to charge your vehicle?
- Have you ever run out of battery?
- Have you been on a road trip?
- What about maintenance?
- When should I plan to buy an EV?
- Should I buy a full EV or a plug-in hybrid?

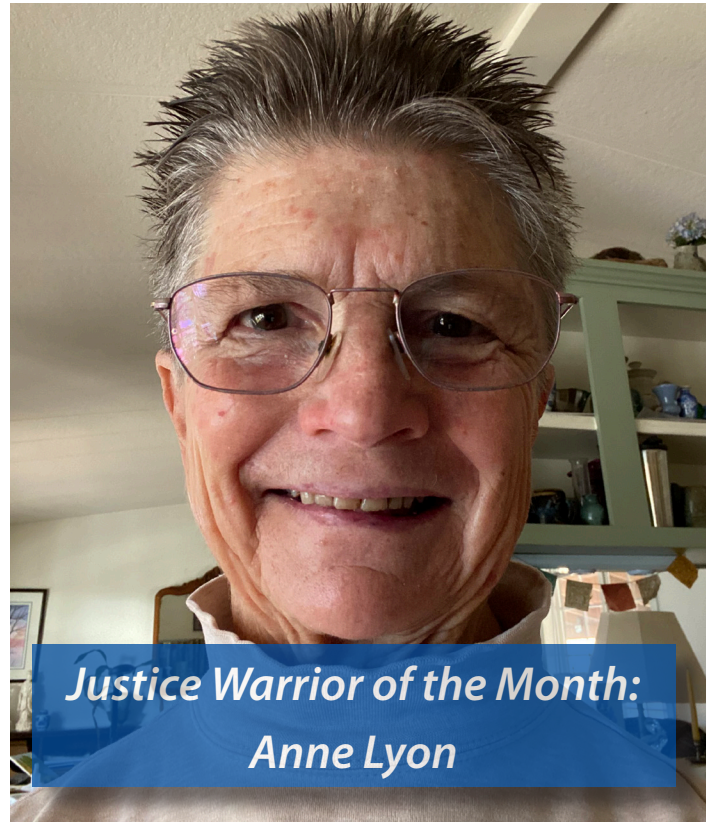
With the dramatic passing of the Inflation Reduction Act the U.S. is now on the way to a cleaner economy. EVs help reduce emissions in the transportation sector but what about emissions from other sectors of the economy? We will discuss the potential for a hydrogen-based economy.

We will start at 5:30 PM with a potluck. Please bring a dish of your choice to feed approximately six people.

September Justice Potluck and Discussion:

Topic: *Stop the Mine*

Watch the eChalice and UU general for more information about our September Justice Night Potluck and Discussion.



By Bernell Scott, Justice Team member

Anne Lyon is our Justice Warrior for September. She has been active in social justice causes for most of her life. She grew up in an upper middle class family in San Diego. But even as a young child, she recognized that her family's non-white employees were not treated with the same respect as others were. Then, at age sixteen, Anne's parents took her to visit Auschwitz. That experience had a profound effect on her that lasts to this day.

Anne attended college in the Sixties where she was active in Students for a Democratic Society. She also has supported Zero Population Growth and the Women's Movement, among other causes. Her employment included school teaching and curriculum development.

At UUCM Anne is on the Parish Caring and Justice teams, including the Nisenan Task Force. Also, she volunteers at the Interfaith Food Ministry. She does all this while having serious health problems. On a lighter side, she enjoys her home in the woods, watching birds and other wildlife. She says this home is the best one she has ever had. She enjoys cooking too.

Anne loves our UUCM community and especially appreciates that Reverend Kevin reminds us that "Freedom is not free." Thank you, Anne, for spending your life in such a compassionate, worthwhile way.

UUCM Can Be a "Good Trouble" Congregation

By Keith Johnson, BTAOJ Task Force Member

The late John Lewis urged everyone to get into "good trouble." UUCM will be designated a Good Trouble Congregation if we meet at least four of the seven criteria established by the UUA "UU the Vote" initiative for participation in the 2022 election. The Bending the Arc task force has accepted this challenge, and the work to become a Good Trouble congregation has already begun. Here are the criteria and UUCM's progress to date:

CRITERIA 1 -

Average 20 postcards per member.

Done. We hope to prepare and mail 10,000 postcards! UUCM members, friends, and their families and friends did just over 5,000 in April, June, and July and are working on another 2300 in August with more to come in September and October.

CRITERIA 2 -

Average 200 text messages per member.

We can do this, but we need a task leader to help us get organized.

CRITERIA 3 -

Average 20 calls per member.

We are making great progress. At least 400 calls have been made. A phone bank training will be held on September 18 to recruit more volunteers. Watch for details!

CRITERIA 4 -

Average 20 doorknocks per member.

Would anyone like to take this on?

CRITERIA 5 -

Reach 20% volunteer engagement.

Done. Thanks to the postcard club, we have already met this.

CRITERIA 6 -

Average two newly registered voters per member.

Task force members met with the school district superintendent to discuss tabling at the local high schools to preregister students. Stay tuned for further updates.

CRITERIA 7 -

At least two members volunteer to be poll workers or poll watchers. One person has volunteered to work on election day.

If you would like to help UUCM become a Good Trouble Congregation, please contact Keith Johnson (kjohnson.uucm@gmail.com) or any other member of the Bending the Arc Task Force.



Justice at the Fair

Pictured above is the Citizens' Climate Lobby booth at the fair. Our past UUCM Worship Associate Wendy Wernigg, now an event coordinator for the Nevada County Fair, was spotted at the booth. Also in the photo is Shanti Emerson, who was given an award for her many years of service to the Fair.

Our own Rev. Kevin helped kick off the 2022 Nevada County Fair with these words at the opening ceremonies, as published in the Nevada Union Newspaper:

"In Michigan, corn dogs are just corn dogs," Unitarian Universality Community of the Mountains Rev. Kevin Tarsa said to a crowd of VIPs present at the opening ceremonies of the 2022 Nevada County Fair. "They're not the revered, sacred objects they have here," Tarsa said, bringing laughter from the crowd. Tarsa referenced the highly sought after Job's Daughters Corn Dogs at the World Famous Treat Street.



Interfaith Food Ministry

By Anne Lyon, IFM Board Representative

IFM HAS AN EXTREME NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS!

They are serving an average of 6,000 individuals per month - up nearly 50% from 2021. There are a variety of shifts available:

Checkers, M, W or F	9:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Food Distribution, M, W or F	7:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Packing and Sorting, T or Th	7:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Drivers, 7 Days a Week	7:00 AM to 9:00 AM

IFM Gardens in Nevada City & Cedar Ridge
If interested, please contact Anna Gloria at annagloria099@gmail.com or phone (530) 277-2920.

Saturday, October 29 - Hunger Run & Drive Away Hunger!
Register on-line at www.interfaithfoodministry.org

Recycle your eWaste weekly, Thursdays, 7:00 to 11:00 AM,
held at IFM, suggested donation \$10

Community Connections – Online & In Person

Staying Connected

WEEKLY @ UUCM

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

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

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/mask 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/or In-Person

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!

WALKING GROUP - NOW AT 7:30 AM

Tuesdays: Wolf Creek Trail, meet at the Northstar Mine Parking Lot, 7:30 AM. Thursdays: meet at 418 Chapel St, GV at 7:30 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.

MEN'S GROUPS - VIA ZOOM

Men gather to enjoy each other's company. Wednesdays from 8:30 to 10:30 AM at UUCM; Thursdays from 8:30 to 10:30 AM at various offsite locations. Contact for either group: mensgroup@uugrassvalley.org



HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:30 AM

The Humanism Discussion Group is a gathering for both those who identify as Humanists and those who are interested in learning about this philosophy. Discussions explore aspects of Humanism, as well as various topics and their connections to this belief system, with a focus on how Humanism relates to today's world. Subjects for group discussion are chosen by members and optional readings on the subjects are made available prior to the discussion.

When health precautions allow, we meet in person at UUCM. We Zoom the meeting for those who are not able to attend in person: [ZOOM LINK](#)

Please view the UUCM Website [CALENDAR](#) for the most up to date meeting information. For questions, please contact: Humanism@uugrassvalley.org

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

First Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM, on-site and via Zoom
Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org

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. We will continue to potluck so long as the virus is somewhat at bay. 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, and you can participate in discussions about our activities.

UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:30 PM OR AS LISTED

All meetings will be scheduled for the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM in the UUCM Channing Room, *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.

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

September is for Connections

By Jo Waters, Leader, UUCM Family Ministry Team

For many people, September feels more like New Year's than does January 1. September is the start of a new school year, a new church year, and a renewal of rhythms and routines around home and family. The summer fun is over and it's time for our young people to get back to work.

Much of this work revolves around school, and we have several schools represented in our church family: Nevada Union High School, Ghidotti High School, Seven Hills Middle School, Lyman Gilmore Middle School and Deer Creek Elementary, to name just a few. As the school year progresses, we will share with you the activities that our various young people are participating in so that our community can show our support and grow our multigenerational connections.

Speaking of connections, the Hot August Game Nights at the Waters house have been a big success. Held every Wednesday evening in August, members and friends of all ages came to share food and play games together. In September we will shift to a Third Thursday Game Night at 6:00 PM at the same place.

Lindsay Dunckel continues to offer us her All Ages Services once a month designed for the children in all of us. Below are some photos of preparations for one on August 28 which included a parade of origami animals. The next one will be September 18th. Who knows what new wonders are in store?



The Service Garden is full of tomatoes and squash and may even provide some pumpkins for our upcoming Pumpkin Altar on Friday October 28.



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS AND A PAID COORDINATOR!

We are still seeking volunteers to help our Family Ministry Team support our children and families. If you can give an hour on Sunday as a Kids Connection helper, please let Jo Waters know. We are also looking to train a few more OWL facilitators this year to run a middle school class in the Fall of 2023. If this calls to you or you have questions, contact Jo Waters. And we are still wanting to hire a Family Ministry Coordinator. The job description and application are posted on the website. Please pass them along to anyone you think might be interested.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Thurs., 9/15 | Family Game Night at the Waters, 6:00 PM |
| Sunday, 9/18 | All Ages Service, 10:30 AM, childcare avail. |
| Friday, 10/28 | Annual Pumpkin Altar |

Be sure to check the eChalice and UUCM Connect for more dates and details of upcoming family-oriented events.



Soul Matters: Welcome to Belonging

*You hardly knew
how hungry you were
to be gathered in,
to receive the welcome
that invited you to enter
entirely...*

*You began to breathe again...
You learned to sing.*

*But the deal with this blessing
is that it will not leave you alone,
will not let you linger...
this blessing
will ask you to leave,
not because it has tired of you
but because it desires for you
to become the sanctuary
that you have found...*

- Jan Richardson

Richardson begins with hunger. And so do we. Just saying the word "belonging" conjures it up: The primal hunger to be included; the longing to be let in. No one likes standing outside the circle. No one likes leaning against the locked door listening while everyone is laughing inside. From the time we are little, belonging is the thing we seek. It's the hoped-for Holy Grail. The promised resting place.

But Richardson will have none of that. Our own belonging is only the beginning. That's what she wants us to know. One minute she's wrapping us in comforting words about settling in and allowing ourselves to finally breathe. The next she's shaking us awake and telling us to get up and go.

That shaking should tell us something.

In other words, this is no gentle invitation, friends. No sweet reminder to think of others. It's a warning. A desperate hope that we will wake to the fact that there are two kinds of belonging: one that wants to bless us and another that wants to enlist us.

Deep down, we know this. The hard part is to remember it. To use Richardson's language, if we find ourselves being invited to linger rather than leave, alarm bells should go off. We need to be wary of those who welcome us with a club jacket and a soft couch. They may have let us in, but soon they will enlist us into keeping others out. There will likely even be a part of us that wants to keep others out. After all, closed circles don't just set us apart, they sit us above.

But they also keep us small. Maybe this is why Richardson's blessing is so intent on not leaving us alone. It knows that we only grow when the circle does. Circles that keep others out also keep the air out. No one inside a closed circle truly sings; they only suffocate, slowly.

It's all one big reminder that the true blessing of belonging is not that you get to come inside the circle; it's that you get to participate in expanding it. Again, as the circle grows so do we.



Sample a Soul Matters Circle! A new year begins!

Are you looking for deeper connection with others, with yourself, and with your deepest values? Soul Matters Circles are small, facilitated groups of 5-8 people that meet once a month from September through June using the monthly themes as springboards and lenses for reflection and sharing. They have fostered many treasured relationships as well as surprising personal insights.

Sample a Soul Matters Circle experience Sunday, September 11 with Rev. Kevin, from Noon to 2:00 PM at UUCM and via Zoom. Explore the September theme of "Belonging."

Curious? Want to learn more? Need the Link? Or ready to sign up?

Find out more and sign up [HERE](#) on UUCM's website.

If you know you are interested in participating in a Soul Matters Circle this year or you have questions, please contact Soul Matters Coordinator Jo Waters at SoulMatters@uugrassvalley.org

2022-23 Soul Matters Themes

September:	Belonging
October:	Courage
November:	Change
December:	Wonder
January:	Finding Our Center
February:	Love
March:	Vulnerability
April:	Resistance
May:	Creativity
June:	Delight

September 2022 Calendar of Events at UUCM

For the most current version of the UUCM Monthly Calendar, please click this link: <https://www.uugrassvalley.org/calendar/>

28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10:30 UU Principle #7: The Earth, The Air, The Fire, The Water – Lindsay Dunckel and Carmen Riley 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:30 Drop-In Support Group	7:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group 5:30 Electric Vehicles and the Clean Energy Economy 6:00 Family Ministry Game Nights!	7:30 Thursday Walking Group 7:00 Singing Meditation		1:00 Membership Team Meeting	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 Life is a Spiritual Practice: Living Our Principles – Rev. Kevin Tarsa 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:30 Book Group 12:30 Drop-In Support Group	4:00 Stop the Mine Task Force	7:30 Tuesday Walking Group 4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting	8:30 Men's Group 10:30 Humanism Discussion Group 6:00 Worship Team Meeting	7:30 Thursday Walking Group 10:30 Writers' Group 2:00 Finance Committee Meeting		10:00 8th Principle Discussion Groups 3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 The Path of Belonging – Rev. Kevin Tarsa 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:00 Sample Soul Circles 12:30 Drop-In Support Group	6:00 Women's Circle	7:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group 4:30 Ministry Council Meeting	7:30 Thursday Walking Group		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 With Whom You Belong – Lindsay Dunckel, Worship Leader 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:00 Phone Bank Training 12:30 Drop-In Support Group		7:30 Tuesday Walking Group 5:15 Nisenan Project Team Meeting	8:30 Men's Group 1:30 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:00 Justice Team Meeting	7:30 Thursday Walking Group 10:30 Writers' Group		
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10:30 Beyond Belonging – Rev. Kevin Tarsa 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:30 Drop-In Support Group	7:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	7:30 Thursday Walking Group		1:00 Membership Team Meeting	



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

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

Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:

Rev. Kevin's office hours are currently held by appointment.

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

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Manager*

Mary Lindsay, *Communications Coordinator*

Music Director

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

Submit by filling out the online announcement form on our website, or here:

[Announcement Form](#)

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

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