

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

October 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 • •

**OCTOBER THEME: *The Path of Courage***

**Cheryl Morris and Beth Karow, Worship Associates**

### October 2 **Courage or Comfort?**

Rev. Kevin Tarsa

As we launch our theme of "Courage" and launch into the first segment of our Sabbatical/Renewal, we'll bless the journey ahead and draw on Brené Brown's insight shared by Allison in a recent service: "You can choose courage or you can choose comfort. You cannot have both." Hmmm...

### October 9 **The Nisenan: In Courageous Conversation**

Tribal Spokesperson Shelly Covert, Frank Lawrence, UUCM Nisenan Project Team, and you.

UUCM's holds an ongoing commitment to be in as respectful and as right a relationship as possible with the members of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe of this area. This year, as part of that evolving and growing relationship, tribal spokesperson Shelly Covert draws generously on her own courage to invite UUCM into a courageous and honest conversation. Bring your real questions, invites Shelly, especially those that you have been afraid to ask.

### October 16 **On Courage: A Tapestry Service**

"If I knew then what I know now..." Come and hear what three of our UUCM elders have to say they have learned about courage in the course of their long and well-lived lives. What might we learn right now?

### October 23 **Hard Things**

Lindsay Dunckel

Everyone faces hard things – sometimes every day! How do we find the courage to do the big and the small hard things? Come jump into the deep end with us as we explore together how to be brave in the face of our fears and trepidations.

### October 30 **Remembering Our Ancestors**

Beth Karow

Some have believed that the veil between the worlds of living and dying are thinnest at this special time of year, making communication with our ancestors easier. But what if what we need to say takes courage? In our annual remembrance service, we will draw inspiration from the wisdom of our Mexican and Pacific Island neighbors, recognizing that it is never too late to invest in our relationships with those who matter to us.

**You are invited to bring for the altar, photos or mementos of those who have died who you would like to remember.**

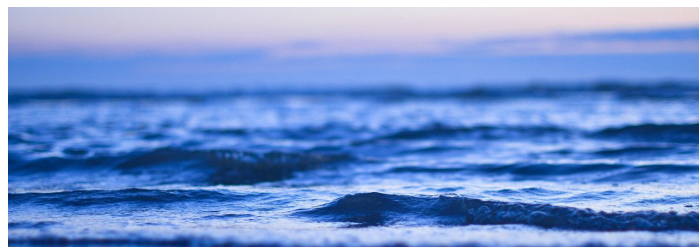
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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister



One of the readings I've drawn upon numerous times, for closing words in meetings, circles, and Sunday services, offers the wisdom and encouragement of the Rev. Wayne Arnason:

*Take courage friends.  
The way is often hard,  
the path is never clear,  
and the stakes are very high.*

Apt for this moment. Apt for most moments.

And of course, he doesn't leave it there.

As I write, I am down to the final couple weeks before our shared six-week fall sabbatical-renewal begins on October 3. Yes, it is meant to be a time of renewal for the minister, but it is also a time of renewal for the congregation. It is a chance to strengthen identity, confidence, skills, and emotional resilience in ways that are not dependent on the presence of the minister. It is a time to discover that, "Yes, we can do this! And not only that, we can do this really well!"

One never knows what will arise in the course of six coming weeks in a world of events that keep defying our assumptions and expectations, but no matter what arises, know that you are in good hands. By that, I'm referring to not only your elected and appointed leaders, who are continually generous and amazing, I am also referring to your fellow members and dedicated friends. You are in good hands and good hearts with each other. If any moments get sticky or messy, I encourage you to remember this.

Sometimes, when an identified leader is away, people's discomfort or worry manifests in unexpected ways. People may, for a moment, not be at their best. You, for a moment, may not be at your best. And... you and other people may, for a moment, rise to your absolute, shining best.

No matter what arises, in your midst or in the world,

*Take courage.  
For deep down, there is another truth:  
you are not alone.*

You have not only each other, and your UUCM Board and other leaders, you also have available to you significant goodwill in the wider community and among our neighboring faiths, and the support of the wider UU Association.

For my part, my goal for these six weeks is to unplug deeply, to let go of any concerns other than being present to the

moment. I'll spend three of the six weeks camping, just me and the rhythms of the sun and stars, moving water, and the quiet spinning of the Earth. I hope to reach a deep enough stillness to hear what's stirring at the center of my heart and of my awareness. From that place, I will discern what the longer sabbatical-renewal time in the new year most needs to be. This is a journey I used to take at 7-year intervals, but I missed the last round, so I am overdue. I am very much looking forward to it, and to the ways it will allow me to be of stronger and more sustained service here at UUCM.

May this renewal time allow the congregation to hear, in its own way, a bit more of what's stirring at the center of its own heart and awareness. I look forward to sharing our stories and our newfound awareness afterward, and to anticipating the deep opportunity coming in the new year.

*Take courage friends.  
The way is often hard,  
the path is never clear,  
and the stakes are very high.*

*Take courage.  
For deep down, there is another truth:  
you are not alone.*

With care,  
- Rev. Kevin

### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

**Rev. Kevin will be away on Renewal Leave, and so out of contact, from October 3 until November 14.**

**For practical needs, please contact  
UUCM's Office Manager, Carol Fulkerson  
(530-274-1675 or [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org)),  
or UUCM Board President, Pam Kisor  
([president@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:president@uugrassvalley.org)).**

**For pastoral care needs, please contact a member of  
the Lay Pastoral Care Team: George Dunstan, Gwen  
Eymann, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, or Tom Wernigg,  
or email: [Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)**



## Board of Trustees

René Wiley, Vice President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees  
[vicepresident@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:vicepresident@uugrassvalley.org)

There is a particular excitement I'm feeling as Fall arrives, which surprised me a few weeks ago with the soaking rain and its deep sense of regenerative moisture followed by clean, pure air. To breathe, to hope, to know that all will be fine again. I knew it to be true as the birds chirped with new vigor. It's been wonderful to pause if only for a moment to recognize this Fall as a time of reflection and renewal. It feels so important to attend to us and to listen to what is needed, next.

Much like the new rhythm of the season, I anticipate that our Beloved Community will find an easy groove during the six-weeks our Rev. Kevin is away enjoying his much-deserved sabbatical renewal. This time will be regenerative and expanding to all.

Naturally, alongside any new challenge, we may discover more courage, more participation, and a deepened faith in ourselves.

The Board of Trustees has so much gratitude for the many leaders in all areas of the church who have pulled together and taken on new responsibilities in service to all. Special thanks go to the Sabbatical/Renewal Committee members who have been working with care for over a year to prepare for this renewal and will continue to work and make smooth the upcoming sabbatical stretch from January to May.

Soon the season will bring the tender greening of the landscape and remind us that everything is growing again. We as a community also welcome the growth process that will, in turn, inform us of what is next on our journey.

With joy I look forward to more courage, more participation, and more sharing in our deepening Unitarian Universalist faith – together.

*With gratitude,*

*René*



## 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 1:30 PM 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 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Discussion



By Janet Dunstan,  
UUCM 8th Principle Coordinator  
[JanetDunstan@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:JanetDunstan@uugrassvalley.org)

Find out more about UUA's proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle! Here are two opportunities for discussion this Fall:

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

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

A third session is to be scheduled. You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions. These sessions provide an opportunity to explore your questions and concerns about endorsing the 8th Principle.

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 at the address above, and I will add it to the list.





Kate Canan, Leader,  
Membership Team  
[membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org)

## Membership

### Want to Learn More About UUCM and Get Connected?

#### CALLING BOTH NEW AND EXPERIENCED SEEKERS!

If you've been attending services or checking out the website and are curious to find out more, or if you are already a member and wanting to renew your sense of community and of this religious tradition, join Rev. Kevin, other newer folks, and existing members for meaningful and fun connection as well as information. Come first for "UU 101," a single, interactive, introductory session. We'll explore the history, principles, and sources of Unitarian Universalism and our congregation's mission statement. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion, because, after all, UU is a denomination where questioning is highly encouraged!

If that session piques your interest, you are invited to continue with a deeper look – **Starting Point**, five rich sessions of connection and learning. (This part of the series asks for a commitment to attend all five sessions.) Throughout both **UU 101** and **Starting Point**, we'll approach Unitarian Universalism and membership at UUCM as ongoing journeys. And rather than simply hearing about Unitarian Universalism, participants will have a chance to experience Unitarian Universalism, with awareness that each person brings important insight, experiences and perspectives to this shared journey.

We'll be holding **UU 101** sessions monthly and **Starting Point** series a few times a year. It is wonderful to have members mixed in with new folks.

*We've scheduled the following dates in the Channing Room:*

#### UU 101:

Sunday, October 16 at 12:00 PM,  
Saturday, November 19 at 1:00 PM,  
Saturday, December 10 at 12:00 PM

#### Starting Point Five Part Series:

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM,  
November 29, December 6 & 13, January 3 & 10

To sign up for **UU 101** or the **Starting Point** series, or to learn more about UUCM and membership in general, please contact Kate Canan at [membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org) or Rev. Kevin at [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org). (Not available from 10/3/22 through 11/14/22)

### Meet Our New Members!



#### TRACY PEPPER

Tracy Pepper is the Founder and President of Color Me Human, a non-profit organization that works to dismantle systems of oppression both within ourselves and within the institutions of Nevada County and beyond. A graduate of the University

of Phoenix in Business Management and a Master's degree in Public Administration from California State University, Fresno, Tracy is a retired law enforcement officer who has spent her career in community service at the local, state and national levels.

Tracy is trained and has volunteered as a mediator with the Nevada County Conflict Resolution Center and is an Office of Emergency Services-certified Crisis Intervention Specialist. In addition to her work with *Color Me Human*, Tracy served on the board of *Earth Justice Ministry*, the US board of *Treesisters*, an international non-profit organization, President and Board Member of League of Women Voters, Fresno, and board member, League of Women Voters, Western Nevada County.

Tracy has three children and five grandchildren that fill her heart with joy. Tracy loves to travel, experience diverse cultures and people, hike, e-bike, and play pickleball.



#### JEFF GOLD

I grew up in an innovative community setting in Palo Alto, went eastward in the '60s to Antioch College [Ohio], then UC Berkeley for architectural studies, and completed my architectural training at Yale. An apprenticeship in San Francisco brought me to Nevada

County for the first time in the summer of 1970 to build the home for Gary Snyder on San Juan Ridge. I returned to these foothills in 1977 to live full-time and begin my architectural practice.

I retired in 2017. During a 40-year architectural career I had the opportunity to design many projects, including ones with the UU communities in Davis and Sacramento, with the KVMR community for their new radio station in Nevada City, and with Briar Patch Coop in designing their new store.

Carol Nimick and I recently married, and we're enjoying our time together – hiking and backpacking, playing tennis, working in a neighborhood garden, and sharing time with

## Membership, continued

family and friends. I have five grandchildren living at a distance; my son lives in Minneapolis and my daughter in Atlanta. I look forward to becoming a more active member of UUCM, and being of service in community.



**CAROL NIMICK**

Born in rural Pennsylvania, I was blessed by abundant nature which led to an interest in Botany and later studies at Pomona College. I worked as a botanist before becoming a naturalist for the US Park and Forest Service.

Later, with an interest in environmental education, I created a mobile nature/art workshop which received public funding to travel to small schools in Nevada. I also enjoyed raising sheep at this time.

In 1981 I came to Nevada City to help start a Waldorf school, first as a private school and then as a public charter school, and loved my years of teaching.

In retirement I've enjoyed spiritual care work at the hospital, working as a CASA, gardening, tennis, backpacking and skiing.

I'm delighted to be married to Jeff Gold.

## Audio Visual Team

### *Light, Camera, Action!* *Help Support Our Weekly Show*

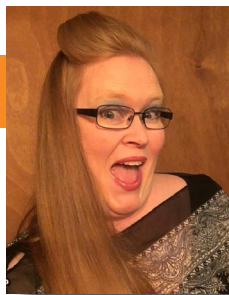
We need YOU to help with the PowerPoint and camera-switching for Sunday Services.

We know it appears complicated with all the wires and three monitors, but thanks to some recent upgrades, all you really need to do is push buttons – and who doesn't like pushing buttons?! We have detailed written instructions, lots of helpful notes, and friendly, forgiving folks to support you every week.

Please send an email to Bob Miller or Siobhan Boylan at [AV@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:AV@uugrassvalley.org) if you're curious. We'll get you trained and promise not to leave you alone until you feel comfortable.



## Communications



**Mary Lindsay**  
Communications Coordinator  
[Communcations@UUGrassValley.org](mailto:Communcations@UUGrassValley.org)

### *Join the Communications Team!*

It's a fun new way to serve! We have an amazing Mountain Chalice team and are looking for others who may want to join in with Communications. The goal of the team is to GROW our reach to those inside and outside of the congregation to share about the work, events and community at UUCM. We do that through various streams of communication utilizing video, photos, social media and more.

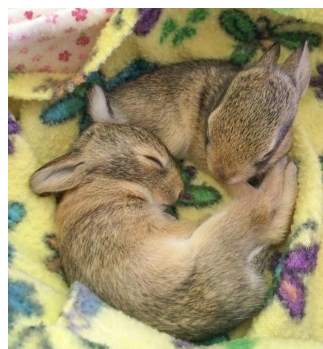
As a team member you can help spread the word! If you enjoy being on Facebook or Instagram and are willing to share our posts - this may be for you! If you enjoy video production, editing or taking photographs - this may be for you! If you have strong writing skills and like editing and fact checking - guess what... this may be for you! To learn more please email [Communcations@UUGrassValley.org](mailto:Communcations@UUGrassValley.org).



## Share the Plate

UUCM's August Share the Plate recipient, [Color Me Human](#), will receive \$1025.75 thanks to generous UUCM members, friends, and visitors. These weekly donations add up. Thank you all.

As of this writing, we are currently finishing up collections for our September partner, [Sierra Streams Institute](#).



Our October Share the Plate recipient is [Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release](#). WR&R is dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife. Each year for the past 35 years WR&R has returned to the wild over 100 different species of native wildlife, including mammals, bats, songbirds, and raptors.

*Thank you, each of you, for your continual compassion- and justice-centered generosity.*



## Parish Care

Gwen Eymann  
Leader, UUCM Parish Care Team  
[Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)

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

At a recent Caring Team meeting Penny Harlan told the story of a fire that threatened her grandson's small farm. The evacuation order was in place. Jason, Penny's grandson refused to leave saying, "I won't leave my pigs."

Jason joined the firefighters in their efforts to subdue the fire, which burned to within ten feet of his property line.

The farm was saved, and so were the pigs.

A happy ending to a scary story? Yes, but the story does not end there.

We learned one of the firefighters came by a few days after the fire and bought six pigs.

The message from this story is: A good result may follow a difficult situation.

The Caring Team focuses on helping turn a difficult situation into a positive one: a UUCM-er is having surgery, or needs a grocery pick-up, or a prescription delivered, or maybe just a check-in phone call. Simple, easy, non-intrusive, and always gentle, the actions of the Caring Team make a difference. Surprising turns of fortune, like the firefighter wanting pigs, happen every day. These happenings often occur behind the scenes and go unrecognized. No matter. The point is made: someone cares.

If you would like to help in the many ways the Caring Team provides or you have other ideas for helping, take a look at the [Caring Team Member Resource form](#) and consider signing up.

### 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)

## Lay Pastoral Care Team

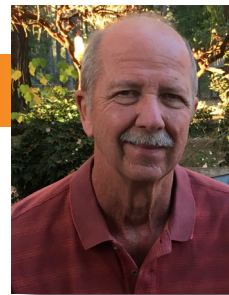
### Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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.

During Rev. Kevin's first renewal leave (October 3-November 14) please contact 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, Gwen Eymann, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, and Tom Wernigg or email: [Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)



## B & G Team

Wally Holtan, Leader,  
Building & Grounds Team  
[B-G@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:B-G@uugrassvalley.org)

### Working WITHOUT Wally! Oh my!

As I am still recovering from knee surgery, Paul Elias volunteered to supervise the September work day. He and four other wonderful volunteers showed up on a rather smoky day to clean up our yard, the front of the building, vacuum the chairs, and finish a special project that hopefully will prevent future leaks in our Nursery. They got it all done in TWO hours! I would like to thank Paul Elias, Phil Horning, Kern Hildebrand,

Keith Johnson and Gwen Eymann for their willingness to work hard for our community. Hopefully, next month I will be able to participate AND the air will be cleaner. With the cooler weather coming there are a few projects that need to be addressed.

As always if you are new to UUCM (or not!) and would like to volunteer to help keep our building and grounds presentable plus meet new people, this is a great place to start.

*-Wally*



*Hardy crew gets the job done without their fearless leader.*





## Art and Aesthetics Team

Robin Hart, Leader,  
Art & Aesthetics Team  
[art@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:art@uugrassvalley.org)

The Aesthetics Team met in September to plan for the new church year, anticipating the change of seasons from summer to fall. We are hoping to recruit a few new members this year to help us with the task of making the environment of UUCM more spiritually and aesthetically pleasing to our congregation. If you are interested, please contact us at: [art@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:art@uugrassvalley.org). We meet every other month.

We recently hung the latest UUCM Library Art Gallery show featuring new member Laura Harter. Here is the schedule of current and upcoming shows:

- 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 and keep a rainbow in your hearts!*

- Robin

I've always enjoyed painting and drawing. I spent a lot of time in the art room in high school, painted at home, and was lucky to receive hand-me-down darkroom equipment and a 35mm camera when I was 16. I loved the magic of composing a photo and then watching images develop on film and on paper. In college I majored in photography and continued to take drawing, painting, and printmaking classes. It was a wonderful time of exploration and expression. After college I explored botanical illustration and graphic design.

I loved art history classes, participation in group critiques, and visits to art museums.

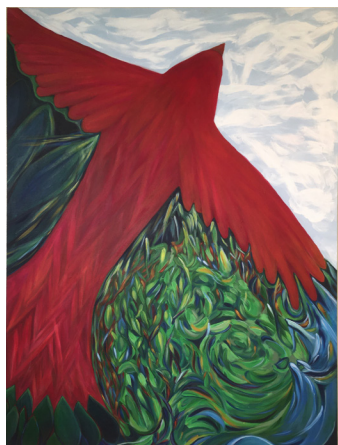
As I entered my late twenties I let my inner critic question my abilities and creative process. I struggled to trust my voice. Eventually, I let go of my daily practice of drawing and painting and focused on practical matters. I navigated a commute between Redwood City, San Francisco, and Hayward for work and graduate school and let my artistic practice dwindle.

Later, as a mother, I dabbled. When my two daughters were in preschool and primary grades we spent time each day with arts, crafts, and storytelling. It was richly fulfilling. However, I

didn't use this time to make art for myself. It was enough to share the joys of creativity and self-expression with my children. I marveled at their creations.

Art always beckoned me. Over the past 35 years I felt at home and restored while painting or visiting a museum but rarely gave myself over to it.

These paintings are from the past five years. I was ready to play and explore. My inner



### ARTIST BIOGRAPHY FOR Laura Harter

critic was now on my side and showed up as a kind, gentle, and helpful voice. (Thank you, Brené Brown.)

I enjoy a very abstract creative process. I let the image develop and 'speak to me,' to tell me what makes sense. Sometimes I work from a photo, sometimes I start with a stroke or a penciled outline of a composition. I focus on a feeling, a place, memory, or really all of that at the same time.

I allow curiosity about the image as I create it. Some images are uncomfortable and represent hurt or healing. Others capture something about a place – the colors, shadows, shapes that happen at various times within a day or season. I let myself journey into the process, make decisions, be in the moment, and declare a stopping point when I feel the painting has completed its mission for me. It's about curiosity, observation, self-reflection, and freedom.

I welcome the journey of each painting. I hope I can provide you with an opportunity to find a connection to an image. What does it evoke in you?

It is a very personal process and I appreciate the opportunity to share it with you.



### Profile of a Profiler

by Jenny Dewey

*From Rev. Kevin Tarsa – “Author Jenny Dewey is usually writing about others in these monthly Mt. Chalice profiles. This time she turns her thoughtful eye on her own journey.”*

The profiler is someone who once dreamt of riding bareback on a fast horse, racing away into the hills and becoming an Indian maiden wearing a soft, buckskin dress and beaded moccasins.

The profiler’s reality was a small, dusty valley where everybody was a Catholic and she wanted to be one too.

Her father told her if Holy Water didn’t freeze, he would allow her to be baptized a Catholic.

It was winter and the Holy Water froze solid.

The profiler contented herself by going to church with her friends, listening to the music, smelling the incense, loving the candlelight, and wishing she could be confirmed and wear a white dress and lace-trimmed socks.

The profiler’s family disintegrated, blew up like a bomb, and everything changed.

The profiler was sent away to boarding school where all but a handful of the students were Jewish.

She learned about the Jewish faith and thought of becoming a Jew. The opportunity never came, and the idea drifted away.



*Jenny Dewey, surrounded by books and with her sketch pad in hand...*

The minister at the school was Protestant. His sermons were about Heaven (unreachable) and Hell (where we were all destined to end up).

The profiler became confused and angry, and this is when her search began.

She read philosophical books and learned about the religions of the world. To the profiler, these religions seemed remote, too hard to reach out and touch, hard to become one of.

The profiler’s search went on and on. She grew up and had a child of her own, a daughter. She wanted her child to have a “heart place,” an expression the profiler learned from the Navajo People. The heart place is where communities meet, join together, and celebrate.

The child was tiny when the profiler learned of a religion that didn’t speak of Heaven or Hell. She learned the name of the religion. It was called Unitarian Universalist. Within these two words what the profiler had been searching for seemed attainable. For herself and her daughter, this was the heart place.

The profiler knew it would take time. There were Principles to learn about, trust for people around her to be developed, and friendships to be made.

Now the profiler is an old woman. Her child is grown with a life of her own. But they share a bond, a recognition of what is still, for both of them, the heart place.



## UUCM Writing Workshop

### Writing as a Means to Connect

By Jenny Dewey

A Writing Workshop Series with Jenny Dewey

Mondays from 3:00 to 4:00 PM

October 10, 17 & 24, November dates TBD

Always wanted to write? Got a seed germinating? Curious about exploring the writing process? Looking to connect with others?

Join writer and artist Jenny Dewey in a gentle, meaningful process of expressing yourself, beginning with writing and sharing an introduction to who you are. (See Jenny's profile in the October Mt. Chalice, page 8). Then move to the writing that calls you next.

Connecting with others occurs in a variety of ways. It is a process. Imagine yourself a voyager, a traveler. Chances are you will never grow close to those you meet along the way. As a wayfarer your goal is to observe and to keep moving.

Creating lasting relationships usually begins with small gestures, a smile or a nod. One cannot know the outcome of any relationship until time has passed and trust has been established.

People attending UUCM hear a lot about the significance of making connections with people around them. They want to know more about each other. This can be a slow journey with bumps, setbacks, and even the urge to abandon your goal.

Writing is like this. It, too, is a process. Writing includes setbacks and the urge to give up. Imagine you have a tiny seed in the palm of your hand. The seed has promise. You know there is a chance it will grow beyond its unimpressive size. It will change from a small thing to something bigger.

A desire to sit down and write requires courage. You are likely to begin with an idea, and, as it is getting to know someone, the idea changes over time. You understand this. You accept it as essential to the process.

Sessions offered under the UUCM "tent" provide a chance to express yourself with words. Unlike the roamer, here is the chance to explore in a deeper way the world you are passing through.

## Honor the Ancestors Potluck Supper

### Celebrate Day of the Dead with Your UUCM Family!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 5:00 PM

By Beth Karow

We will spend our last Sunday service of October Remembering our Ancestors at our Day of the Dead service. (See page 1.) Let's reconvene in the evening with a potluck supper that continues the celebration...

We all have favorite foods that instantly remind us of someone who has passed on. Whether it's Great Granny's dinner rolls, Auntie's Peach Pie, Grampa's famous brisket... recipes that, each time we make them, fill us with memories of our Beloved Dead.

This time of year, when the veil between the worlds of Living and Dead is thinnest, is a perfect time to gather together as a community to feast, sharing recipes as we share old memories while making new ones. Bring a favorite potluck dish to share; a picture for the Ancestors Altar; and maybe a story to tell about your loved one and their favorite food.

#### COME, LET'S HONOR OUR LOVED ONES AND FEAST TOGETHER!

Watch the eChalice and UUGeneral for further information and how to sign up for this potluck gathering. In the meantime, if you would like to help plan, setup and/or clean up, or if you have any questions, please contact me at: [bethkarow@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:bethkarow@uugrassvalley.org)



## NISENAN WORDS



PRAYER BEGINNING EVERY TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING:

*We who sit here before our ancestors,  
Pray that we will conduct ourselves  
In a manner that will make you proud  
That we are your children.*

# Justice News and Activities

## Join Us for Monthly Justice Nights

By Bob Miller, Justice Team Co-Chair

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

### September Justice Night at UUCM

Tuesday, September 27,

UUCM Potluck at 5:30 PM

Discussion Panel/Q&A at 6:00 PM

**Topic:** A public forum to discuss false claims on the proposed reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

**Moderator:** Jim Bair, Stop the Mine Task Force Leader

**Panelists:** Chris Newsom, MD, Jeff Kane, MD, John Vaughan, CIO, Rev. Sharon Delgado, and Tim Ogburn, CMO

**Sponsors include:** Earth Justice Ministries, Elders Action Network of the Foothill, Concerned Citizens Roundtable, and UUCM Stop the Mine Task Force.

**We have NOT stopped the Mine yet.** Besieged by misleading and fake support letters, the County needs to hear more from real, concerned citizens.

Actions to influence the County now include requesting that the County database of Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) be reviewed for false and fake letters to the County about the Rise Gold Mine. The UUCM Task Force and other organizations have done extensive research raising ethical questions about the Mine.

Come and learn about three straightforward actions you can take now to influence the County at this critical decision point before the Environmental Impact Report is finalized.

Questions? email: [StoptheMine@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:StoptheMine@uugrassvalley.org)

### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR

### October Justice Night,

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

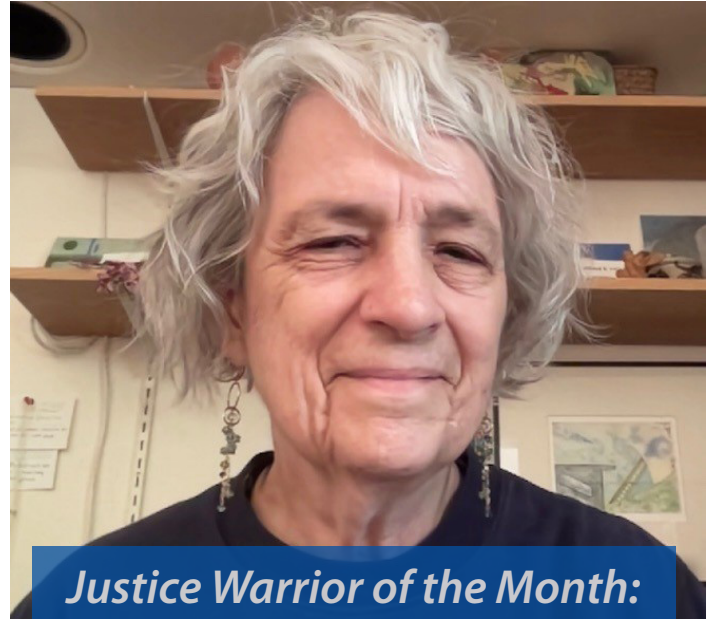
Potluck Set Up at 5:15, Meal at 5:30,

Discussion from 6-7:00 PM

### "WHITHER OUR DEMOCRACY"?

The UUCM Justice Team is hosting a panel forum, along with open live and virtual discussion, on the growing public concern regarding challenges to our US Democracy, and thoughtful ideas of what each and all of us can do to make our Democracy better and stronger. The panel will include UUCM leaders in civil rights, justice, and local civics, and a leader from the Nevada County League of Women Voters. There will be a potluck before the forum.

We hope to see you there!



**Justice Warrior of the Month:**

**Eileen Hale**

By Bernell Scott, Justice Team member

Eileen Hale is our Justice Warrior for October. Her active justice work began in college when she participated in sit-ins in 1967 at the Oakland Induction Center protesting the Vietnam War. That activity led to her arrest and spending 10 days in jail and becoming a founding member of Honkys for Huey. Then she dropped out of Mills College and spent 1968 in Berkeley as a hippie.

Fair treatment for farmers, ranchers, and workers (including coal miners) is also important to her. She hopes for a balance and coordinated solutions to problems between the concerns of these groups and our concerns for wildlife and the environment. She has started to learn and teach PNDC (Powerful Non-Defensive Communication) partly because of the difficulty humans have talking to each other about these issues. Also, she feels like the systems for working with nature that come out of Perelandra\* offer the same peer-balancing tools for human-nature interactions that PNDC does for human-to-human interactions.

Eileen has pursued learning the Mountain Maidu language but recently shifted the focus of her support to the Nisenan people. She is also broadening her view towards other tribes, such as in Berkeley (Muwekma Ohlone) where she was born, New Jersey (Leni Lenape) where she was raised, and eastern Massachusetts (Wampanoag) where she has family. Also, she is happy hearing about tribes beginning to get some of their land back and about beavers moving back into more areas.

In UUCM she finds so many people who share her concerns and are active in the gazillion other ways no one person can

# Justice News and Activities

*Social Justice Warrior, continued...*

cover. She cherishes our congregation's connection and support for the Nisenan and appreciates the stand we have taken against the proposed mine. Also, she is glad that her skills and aptitudes can contribute to UUCM behind the scenes and that her art and poetry feed our community in a different way.

She says one of her deepest wishes is for everyone to be included and respected – for all of life to be included and lived within (sometimes contentious) harmony. She wishes for more balance, caring, mutual respect, and mutual caring among different groups of humans and between humans and the environment; she feels those attitudes will lead to a more beautiful and joyful world for all. We are so blessed to have Eileen in our congregation.

*\*Note from the Author: Before writing this article I didn't know about Perelandra. Maybe some of our readers didn't either. The name of the research center came from the title of one book in a science fiction trilogy by C. S. Lewis, later re-titled "Voyage To Venus" Perelandra's offerings have been described as being for everyone who wants to take charge of their health, life, and environment in simple, new, and extraordinarily effective ways.*

## Bending the Arc Task Force Report

By Jim Perkins

### POST CARD UPDATE

Over 7,000 **Get Out the Vote** post cards have been sent to date by our congregation. Now we are turning our attention to Georgia, a key state. Packets of post cards can be picked up at the church week day mornings or at the Sunday service.

### GOOD TROUBLE CONGREGATION

We are well on our way to meeting the UUA qualifications for being a **Good Trouble Congregation**. To qualify we must meet 4 of 7 criteria. Here are the ones we are aiming for and progress to date:

1. 20 postcards per member sent → done
2. 20 phone calls per member → making progress.  
A training was held on September 18.
3. 20% volunteer engagement → done.
4. Two congregants serve as poll workers.  
Gwen Eymann, Dawn Batement and Jim Perkins have signed up to work the polls.

We are proud of the efforts the entire congregation has made to meet this standard. Thank you.

Questions? Contact us at: [justice@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:justice@uugrassvalley.org)

## EIGHTH PRINCIPLE DISCUSSIONS COMING SOON

There are three opportunities coming up this fall to discuss the Eighth Principle proposed by the UUA. This will be a chance to ask questions and air your concerns about the proposed principle before we decide whether to endorse it. Please see **page 3** of this newsletter for more information.

## PHONE BANK TRAINING

Phone bank training was conducted on September 18 and a good time was had by all. If you missed the training, no worries. You can log onto the [Center for Common Ground](#), read the guidelines, watch the training video, and you will be ready to go. Help UUCM become a "good trouble" congregation by making calls. If you have questions, contact Keith Johnson at [justice@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:justice@uugrassvalley.org).



By Anne Lyon, IFM Board Representative

### Saturday, October 29 - Hunger Run & Drive Away Hunger Golf Tournament!

Both at the Alta Sierra Country Club. Hunger Run starts at 8:00 AM - All ages welcome.

Register on-line at [www.interfaithfoodministry.org](http://www.interfaithfoodministry.org)

Golf Tournament registration at 10:30 AM. Shotgun start at 11:30 AM. All proceeds benefit Holiday Meals Distribution for IFM. Contact Shelby McNamara (925)785-1499

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

**IFM needs Volunteers** - Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. To volunteer, please email or call: [annagloria099@gmail.com](mailto:annagloria099@gmail.com) or phone (530) 277-2920.

Paper bags and paper egg cartons still needed. (619) 933-1618

UUCM has volunteered two hours of grounds help at IFM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 2 - 4:00 PM.

Contact Keith Johnson: [justice@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:justice@uugrassvalley.org)



# Community Connections – Online & In Person

## Staying Connected

### WEEKLY @ UUCM

[Subscribe to the weekly e-chalice](#) for Zoom links and phone numbers. If you need links, please contact [uucmOnline@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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 - 12:30 PM

Confidential Peer support. The Circle's mission is to provide a place for UUCM folks to drop in (now via Zoom - get link [HERE](#)) 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 8:00 AM

**Tuesdays:** Wolf Creek Trail, meet at the Northstar Mine Parking Lot, 8:00 AM. **Thursdays:** Meet at the Houtman's at 8:00 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) for info.

### MEN'S GROUPS

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: [men@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:men@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](mailto:Humanism@uugrassvalley.org)

### SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

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

### WOMEN'S CIRCLE MONTHLY 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](mailto: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.



*In September we shared a Mexican theme potluck and game!*

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)

## October Opportunities

By Jo Waters, Leader, UUCM Family Ministry Team

Ahhh, October! This is my favorite month in my favorite season—Fall! My husband and I were married in October, and our first child Indra was also born in this month. I love the leaves, the pumpkins, the temperature. And Halloween has always been one of my favorite holidays, even as it has expanded over the years to include Samhain and Dia de los Muertos.

Family Ministry is gearing up to provide more curriculum during our Kids' Connection gatherings starting this month. We will be using the Soul Matters curriculum which follows the same themes as our worship services. October's theme is **Courage**, so be sure to ask the children what they are learning about courage when they are upstairs.

We are in the planning stages of creating a Parents Group to encourage connection and provide support for our families. If you are interested in getting involved, we welcome your input.

Game Nights continue to be a lot of fun. This month it will be Thursday, October 20 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Waters house. Please remember to RSVP to [FamilyMinistry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:FamilyMinistry@uugrassvalley.org), and to ask for the address if needed.

The Altar Show is back! Starting in 1997, with a hiatus for the pandemic, the Altar Show is based on the Day of the Dead practice of honoring our ancestors through the creation of altars in their memory. This year the Altar Show is being held at the ASIF Studios at 940 Idaho Maryland Road. It's a free event running from noon to 7:00 PM every day from October 22-30.

Come join us later in the month, on Friday the 28th, for our annual Pumpkin Altar event. We will set up tables on the front patio at 5:00 PM for those of you who would like company to carve your jack o' lanterns. Bring a pumpkin and your favorite carving tools. For those who prefer to carve at home, please bring your creations by at 6:00 PM to display in front of the sign. We will be providing caramel apples and hot apple cider. If you come in costume, you can pose for a picture with the pumpkins and go home with a goody bag.

## 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., 10/20	Family Game Night at the Waters, 6:00 PM
10/22-30	Annual Altar Show at ASIF Studios - FREE
noon-9:00 PM	940 Idaho Maryland Road, GV
Sunday, 10/23	All Ages Service, 10:30 AM, childcare available
Friday, 10/28	Annual Pumpkin Altar & Carving Event

Be sure to check the [website](#), eChalice and UUCM Connect for more dates and details of upcoming family-oriented events.



UUCM Pumpkin Altar from the past... Come join us this year on Friday, October 28 at 5:00 PM to carve, and 6:00 PM to display. Costumes encouraged!

## Full Community Education



### *Soul Matters: Welcome to The Path of Courage*

*"Courage doesn't always roar."  
- Mary Anne Radmacher*

Courageous people change the world. There are so many examples of that this month. October's celebration of LGBTQ+ history month reminds us of the many who bravely moved (and continue to move) our world toward greater acceptance and affirmation. The revolutionary prophet of peace, Mohandas Gandhi, was born on October 2. Our Christian friends celebrate Reformation Day and Martin Luther's courage that changed how we all think about religious authority. We rightly honor such giants. The problem is most of us aren't that tall.

Or are we?

Here's what we have to help each other remember: In addition to the heroic acts that alter history, there are also the daily choices that prevent history from altering us! Bending the arc of the universe toward justice deserves praise, but so does the ordinary work of integrity and not allowing yourself to be bent.

We need to make room on the path for these common acts of courage. The bravery of embracing your beauty even when it doesn't fit the air-brushed images surrounding us. The courage of calling out microaggressions that occur daily for many of us. And what about resisting the persistent seduction of status and stuff? Simply put, the list is long: Turning down that drink one day at a time. Making yourself get out of bed when the depression tells you to stay there. Holding your partner's hand in public. Make no mistake, there are dozens of ordinary acts of bravery we embody every day!

Or maybe we should say there are dozens of ordinary acts of bravery we help each other embody every day. This we need to remember as well. Courage is not only noble; it's contagious. The bravery that makes it into the history books may save the world, but our ordinary courage keeps each other going. Watching someone else make it through another day helps us endure. Witnessing someone else confront bigotry allows us to bravely be more open about who we are. They say that courage is found by digging deep, but most often it is passed on.

So don't worry so much if you haven't changed the world yet. And certainly let's stop comparing ourselves with those giants. Our work rests less in looking up to them and more in looking over at each other. And in remembering that others are looking over at and needing strength from us.



### *Upcoming 2022-23 Soul Matters Themes The Path of...*

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

## Sunday Book Group

### UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

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

The Book Group will not be meeting in October. We will meet again on November 6 at 12:30 in the Channing Room to discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns*, the brilliant and stirring epic covering the half century of the Great Migration. Isabel Wilkerson writes so compellingly that it is hard to believe that this is not historical fiction..

**November 6**     *The Warmth of Other Suns*  
by Isabel Wilkerson

We are growing in attendance and there has been discussion of starting a second group for those who finds weekdays afternoons or evenings better fits their schedules. Please let Theresa know if you are interested in attending the proposed new group. All are welcome to join these discussions at anytime. To request to join via Zoom, please provide at least a week's notice.

Please contact Theresa Houtman at [BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org) if you have any questions, or wish to be added to the email list.



# October 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/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 10:30 Beyond Belonging – Rev. Kevin Tarsa 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:30 Drop-In Support Group	26	27 8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 5:30 Justice Night   Stop the Mine Forum: Are we stopping the mine and what do to now	28 8:30 Men's Group	29 8:00 Thursday Walking Group	30	1 1:00 Membership Team Meeting
2 10:30 Courage or Comfort? – Rev. Kevin Tarsa 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:30 Drop-In Support Group	3 4:00 Stop the Mine Task Force	4 8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting	5 8:30 Men's Group 10:30 Humanism Discussion Group 6:00 Worship Team Meeting	6 8:00 Thursday Walking Group 7:00 Singing Meditation	7	8 3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle
9 10:30 The Nisenan: In Courageous Conversation – Tribal Spokesperson Shelly Covert 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:30 Drop-In Support Group	10 6:00 Women's Circle	11 8:00 Tuesday Walking Group	12 8:30 Men's Group 4:30 Ministry Council Meeting	13 8:00 Thursday Walking Group 10:30 Writers' Group 2:00 Finance Committee Meeting	14	15 8:30 Building and Grounds Workday
16 10:30 On Courage: A Tapestry Service 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:30 Drop-In Support Group	17	18 8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 2:00 8th Principle Discussions 5:15 Nisenan Project Team Meeting	19 8:30 Men's Group 1:30 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:00 Justice Team Meeting	20 8:00 Thursday Walking Group 6:00 Game Night!	21	22
23 10:30 Hard Things – Lindsay Dunckel 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:30 Drop-In Support Group	24	25 8:00 Tuesday Walking Group	26 8:30 Men's Group 6:00 8th Principle Discussions	27 8:00 Thursday Walking Group 10:30 Writers' Group	28	29
30 10:30 Remembering Our Ancestors – Beth Karow 10:45 Kids' Connection 12:30 Drop-In Support Group	31	1 8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting	2 8:30 Men's Group 10:30 Humanism Discussion Group 6:00 Worship Team Meeting	3 8:00 Thursday Walking Group 7:00 Singing Meditation	4	5 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](http://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 will be away on Renewal Leave,  
and so out of contact, from October 3 until November 14.***

**FOR PRACTICAL NEEDS**, please contact UUCM's Office Manager, Carol Fulkerson, below.  
or UUCM Board President, Pam Kisor ([president@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:president@uugrassvalley.org)).

**FOR PASTORAL CARE NEEDS**, please contact a member of the Lay Pastoral Care Team:  
George Dunstan, Gwen Eymann, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, or Tom Wernigg,  
or email: [Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)

### UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, Minister

Carol Fulkerson, Office Manager

Mary Lindsay, Communications Coordinator

Music Director

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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(530) 274-1675

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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.*

**VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS:** Kathryn Young, Design/Layout, Lesley Champlin, Editing/Proofreading

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