

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

December 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 12 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

### DECEMBER THEME: *Wonder*

#### December 4 Remembrance

Rev. Kevin Tarsa and UUCM's newest members,  
Cheryl Morris and Carol Nimick,  
Worship Associates

*We remind each other often that membership in this community is an unfolding journey. Joining officially is one meaningful and powerful moment in that journey, though it is neither the beginning nor the end of it. Those who've been members for a while eventually reach another kind of threshold that in effect invites them into re-membership. This Sunday, we celebrate all of it, welcoming UUCM's newest members into this marvelous caravan.*

#### Dec. 11 Singing into Silence

Rev. Kevin, with Carol Nimick, Worship Associate

*Our annual December meditation service takes the form of a singing meditation circle this year – singing and silence, singing into silence, in a deepening rhythm. Whether you choose to sing, or hum, or let the sound wash over you, come, find stillness and wonder together at the center of the moment, and before the holiday rush takes hold.*

*(Note: We will repeat each chant or song many times. Some people find this repetition soothing and transcendent. And other people...not so much. Just wanted you to know.)*

#### Dec. 18 What Child is This?

Lindsay Dunckel

*A couple of millennia ago, as the story goes, three kings "traversed afar," transfixed by the wonder of a grand celestial event. They took with them gifts for a baby who was houseless, born into a minority culture under a repressive regime. What gifts would you bring? What would the baby need to survive? To thrive?*

**THERE ARE ADDITIONAL SPECIAL SERVICES IN  
DECEMBER.... SEE PAGE 8!**

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

Our December theme invites us to wonder about “wonder.” Having recently returned from several weeks immersed in the coastal redwoods, I am now primed for this theme, though before my extended arboreal meditation it had felt a bit weak or superficial as a focus.

Until, that is, those towering, centuries-scarred evergreens kept taking my breath away and shifting my sense of myself within the larger scheme of things. Wonder was very much the tone of my otherwise solitary days, and I left the woods changed. More grounded. More open. And in a way I didn’t expect, feeling more connected to others.

I had been primed to enter the redwoods’ domain with continual curiosity by a recent brief introduction to John Muir Laws’ practice of nature journaling. The practice invites us to look closely and clearly at the details of the wonders around us and to make a record in words, pictures, and numbers of what we’ve taken in. As we’re noticing and getting curious about details we might otherwise miss, Laws recommends drawing on this initial set of three prompts. I’ve been applying them to most everything lately:

*I notice...*

*I wonder...*

*This reminds me of...*

The “wonder” in the prompt above is an invitation to curiosity, of course, but the process of observing the immediate world around me with gentle and clear intention and attention inevitably led to the other meaning of the word wonder, led to “admiration, amazement, awe.” The two are very much linked, I discovered. Awe leads to curiosity, and curiosity leads to awe.

And there’s a reason I felt more connected after my time in the forest. As Florence Williams reports in *The Nature Fix*, “curiosity draws us out of ourselves,” and awe “turns us away from narrow self-focus and toward the interests of our collective group,” perhaps because “awe wants to be shared.” Awe, researchers have discovered, makes us more generous, leads us to feel less time-pressured and more patient, lowers

our heart rates as well as inflammation and stress, possibly because it leads us to reach out to others, and triggers our vagus nerve similarly to the way love triggers it.

Who knew? Those powerful, transcendent, awesome experiences so many of us have in nature, often while alone, not only feel good and improve our health, they actually help us connect to others.

Perhaps “wonder” is not so shallow a December theme after all. Perhaps it’s a meaningful as well as natural choice for this

month of long, dark nights, ancient winter stories and holidays, and human gatherings.

Williams writes that “According to [Irish philosopher Edmund] Burke, for something to be truly awe-inspiring [i.e. wonder-full], it must possess ‘vastness of extent’ as well as a degree of difficulty in our ability to make sense of it.” In the words of psychologist Paul Piff, it must “blow your mind.”

Redwoods will do that. Skies will do that. The ocean will do that. So will the detail on a western sword fern, or tanoak bark, or the glowing autumn hands of a bigleaf maple. So too can the transcendent, rhythmic magic of a solstice celebration, a powerful family ritual, a glorious holiday concert, singing and so breathing together, a quiet passing of candlelight on Christmas Eve...

May this indeed be a month of wonder for you.

*With care, gratitude, and deep blessings for holidays and the new year,*

*– Rev. Kevin*

### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

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

Contact Rev. Kevin at  
(231) 883-1058 or

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





## Board of Trustees

*Pam Kisor, President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees*  
[president@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:president@uugrassvalley.org)

Here we are, already in our sixth month of operation for the 2022/23 fiscal year! Christmas is upon us and the new year is quickly approaching. It seems as if everything is moving faster as our lives get very busy at this time of year. And in the midst of all this activity the Board continues to carry out the work of the church. At our November board meeting I couldn't help but notice that the Board has become quite efficient at getting our work organized, carried out, and reported on. We have been working together long enough to have an appreciation for each other's strengths, and we know who to turn to for each of our work items and Board actions. I believe we are enjoying our synergy and efficiency as we work to make decisions in the best interest of UUCM.

The Board is currently working to amend our policy on Justice Statements and Acts of Public Witness. Getting the language right for UUCM policy is important. Policy defines the value, need, and guidance for our actions, and sets the groundwork for procedures developed based on this guidance. Janet Dunstan does an excellent job of developing and refining our policies. She works closely with the teams or committees that have the most expertise about the subject the policy addresses. Janet then brings the new, or revised, policy to the Board for our decision. After the Board's review the policy is either voted on and accepted or sent back for more revision. It is a careful and deliberate process that helps us define our values and accepted practices. To some it may seem like tedious work, but luckily the Board finds it to be meaningful and important work.

In other pursuits, the Board will soon hold a much delayed retreat where we plan to review our Board covenant, do a deep dive into our goals, and review the fundamentals of board work. Retreats offer a chance for our committees to further our knowledge and skills while building a closer rapport with our fellow members. Because our retreat was delayed this year, we did some of our "team building" exercises in shorter gatherings rather than wait for our longer retreat. One of these exercises we did prior to the first leg of Kevin's sabbatical. Under Kevin's guidance we each took an Enneagram survey and then met over lunch to share our results. We had a wonderful

### 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.*

time sharing our "types." We discussed our strengths and weaknesses and explored how we could use that information to support each other in our Board work. It was a helpful and enjoyable way to enhance our group synergy as well as have a lot of fun with our discoveries. For those of you who know something about Enneagrams I will just say that on our board of six people, four of us are type eight! I will leave it to you to guess who the four may be. :-)

Happy holidays everyone! May your holiday season be filled with joy, love, and meaningful connections with others.

*Namaste,*

*Pam*





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

## Membership Team

*Please Welcome Five Wonderful New Members!*



### *CHARLENE DUGAN...*

**Charlene Dugan** grew up in rural Northern Illinois and moved to San Jose after graduate school in speech-language pathology. She married Alec MacLean in 1981. They were members of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose for 35 years. She and Alec moved to

Grass Valley from the Bay Area in the summer of 2021. They are happy and grateful to be living here and to be getting acquainted with this community.

Charlene and Alec have three adult children and one grandson, with another expected at the end of this year.

### *...AND ALEC MACLEAN*

**Alec MacLean** has had four professional careers of roughly a decade each: as a process engineer making semiconductors; as a safety engineer for facilities handling highly hazardous materials; as a general safety consultant and educator; and (the fun one!) as a high school chemistry and physics teacher.

Married to Charlene Dugan whom he met when they worked as volunteer rape crisis counselors, he has three Practically Perfect children, each of whom has a wonderful partner. Born and raised in the Santa Clara Valley when it was still orchards, he is happy to have recently retired to Grass Valley.

Retirement is giving him more time to play several kinds of bagpipes (though not Highland), to do more woodcarving, to coach and umpire girls' fastpitch softball, to work on his new house and land, and to work on UUCM's Building & Grounds Team and Facilities Exploration Committee. (There's lots more, but I'm trying to keep this short – feel free to ask!)



### *MAGDALENE FLORENCE*

I've lived in Grass Valley since 1987 with my husband and daughter, growing healthy food for ourselves and the Grower's Market, the first in the county to sell healthy eggs and elephant garlic . . . and "happy" lamb. Besides tending my beloved land, I created wildlife art

for many years until I began the journey with my husband of his departure from this place. I then spent the next nine years caring for elders on their journeys. I am grateful to be here now.



### *LEONNA SAPPHIRE*

I grew up in Southern California but moved to Nevada County in 1976. My birth name is Deborah Woodard, but I like to be called Leonna Sapphire.

Throughout my life I have always been happiest being part of a group doing creative, fun, and uplifting activities such as playing music, singing, improvisational skits, tea parties, crafts, and historic reenactment. To recharge my batteries after being around people, I like to spend a lot of time quietly alone reading or lying down and looking up at the beautiful sky and the trees.

I have been to Europe nine times starting at age 14, when I spent the whole summer there with my mother. Seeing beautiful old architecture, art, and historic clothing gets me totally revved up and wildly excited!

And thanks to my mother, I learned to play piano. I have taught piano for almost 19 years. I love the connections that are built by working with my students and their families to guide them on their musical journey!

I am the mother of two grown sons, and I have two grandchildren. They are my greatest blessings. I treasure each moment spent with them!

I already have so many good memories of time spent at UUCM and I am so grateful to be part of this community!

# Membership Team



## LAURIE BELL

Hello UUCM Community! Laurie Bell here.

What do I want you to know about me in the next minute? Hmm... My 1st Grade report card said, "Laurie plays well with others, but needs to learn patience." Some things never change!

I am: very optimistic by/in nature; quite gullible; able to sit for hours and do nothing; a tree hugger; my biggest fan; and I rarely worry – worrying is negative prayer.

I believe in The Sacred Contracts, The Platinum Rule, UU's Principles, Less Is More, and that Food Tastes Better When Prepared By Someone Else.

Two of my favorite ways to spend time: walking in the woods with my dog Angel and deepening connections through one-on-one conversations.

I am passionate about choosing the best words for clear communication; reducing food waste; recycling and packaging; giving back; people understanding how much choice they do have; people taking responsibility for the consequences of their words and their actions.

What am I afraid of? Hmm...that is a tough one. Perhaps I am afraid of not "finding my purpose." Or afraid that I might not realize that I am living my purpose. One of my favorite quotes comes from Marianne Williamson: "As we change our perceptions we will change who we are. When we have become who we are supposed to be, we will know what it is we are supposed to do."

Well, if my "purpose" is to live in Joy & Gratitude, then I've nailed it!

In addition to the mind-boggling list of things for which I am so very grateful...I am grateful for friends that are courageous enough to talk about "the hard things"; for meals prepared by others; for Mom and Dad finding each other; for the unconditional love of my dog Angel; for friends that appreciate my brilliant ideas and my humor and sometimes can't tell the difference; and for my new UUCM community.

I invite you to say "hi". To come and walk with me and Angel. To come and sit down and connect. We have so much to offer each other.

## Membership Activities

We are hearing good things from the Fire Clusters groups that were able to meet this fall. We know it is next to impossible to find a time that all can meet but after some perseverance a date was chosen



*Fire Cluster Group 5*

and those who could gathered from Fire Cluster 5. They enjoyed meeting for tea and muffins, shared stories about their pets, discussed their interest in board and role-play games, and learned how they grew up or landed in Nevada City. And yes, they did spend a few minutes discussing the usefulness of better knowing one's UUCM neighbors in case of emergency. They learned tips and unique approaches for 'To Go' bags. Because it was so much fun and a good way to inspire everyone to keep their To Go Bags fresh and at the ready, they decided to meet up every two months and invite those who missed the first gathering to join in. They envisioned how a simple text/phone tree could be a useful even though they all are connected with Nevada County Zone System.

It is never too late to launch a Fire Cluster gathering and anyone can initiate it. If you want suggestions about how to organize, where to meet, or who is in your cluster, or if you have already met and have a photo and/or story about your gathering, please call Laura Harter (530-575-6790) or email [membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org)

## OPEN MIC NIGHT!



Our first Open Mic Night on October 21 was great fun! Many thanks to our entertaining musicians and spoken word folks who shared their talents, and for all those who brought yummy food, and were a cheerful

and appreciative audience

**SAVE THE DATE for a second Open Mic** to be held on **Saturday, January 14** – Food at 6:00 PM, Open Mic 7:00 PM.

*Your Membership Team,  
– Laura Harter and Kate Canan*



## Stewardship

Maryann Currington,  
Leader, Stewardship Team

### New Stewards to Build Connection!

Like most UU churches, UUCM has used the word “steward” in a limited way, mostly around pledge time. However, with the recent disruptions due to the Covid pandemic and considering that our beloved minister will be away early next year for several months, Stewardship Team is at work to broaden the term in a way that will—we hope—significantly strengthen our sense of community.

Our New Steward Program assembles a team of volunteer stewards who will be available during the entire church year to help our members make the most of everything that UUCM has to offer. The intention is that your steward will be an effective go-to contact who can guide you to the right resources when you need help or if you’d like to serve the community in some way.

Our stewards each will have three or four members to contact, and will get in touch with you through a call or an email. The object is just to get to know you and hear how you are doing. If you’re more comfortable in person, make a date to meet for a cup of coffee! If a phone call is fine, let them know. If you’re a longtime member of UUCM, share some of your knowledge and experiences. If you’re a newer member, talk about your hopes and expectations. The conversations are yours to create, and the heart of what our new program is about.

We hope to build empathetic relationships within the congregation and foster communication across, between, and among our members, teams, and committees. We, meaning all members, share UU values. We joined this community to be with each other. This is our opportunity to strengthen and expand our bonds.

*Please welcome your Steward with an open heart.*

#### THE 2022-23 UUCM STEWARDS ARE:

Dawn Bateman, Laurie Bell, Taylor Carey, Chuck Champlin, Lesley Champlin, Maryann Currington, Jeff Gold, Scottie Hart, Keith Johnson, Lin Jovanovic, Kathy MacLeod, Susan Merrill, Bob Miller, Cheryl Morris, Carol Nimick, Carol Richey, Reine Thibeault, Beth Rose, Corrie Silva, Anita Wald-Tuttle, Connie Wright, Kathryn Young

If you would like to know more about this program, please email me at [Stewardship@UUGrassValley.org](mailto:Stewardship@UUGrassValley.org).

*With Love and Respect,*

*-Maryann*



## Treasurer Note

Gail Schulz, Treasurer  
UUCM Board of Trustees

Thanks to all of you who reviewed your contribution statements that were sent in October.

You’ve identified some problems and a number of you have moved to correct them. I note here, that if you use Vanco for your payment, you need to not only send in your pledge form, but go into your account through the church website and set up the payment there for the current fiscal year. I’ve been helping some of you do that, and I promise that for next year’s pledge drive, there will be a convenient way for you to request that help. If you need help now, please contact me at [treasurer@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:treasurer@uugrassvalley.org).

For those of you who have not made a payment on your pledge yet, we are entering December, and if you want your contribution to show up on your annual contribution statement to be used for tax purposes, please get it in soon! Contributions that come in after Christmas are hard to get assigned to the correct year, especially as our hard-working Office Manager does get some time off during the holiday season. I suggest that you aim to get checks in by December 20, and any other contributions in by December 15. Meanwhile, much appreciation to the many of our faithful who have kept the money flowing in all along, allowing us to pay our wonderful staff and do all the many things that keep UUCM humming the year around.

## Ways to Give to UUCM

### HERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO GIVE TO UUCM...

- You can give through [UUCM's Online Giving](#) page. (Choose Share-the-Plate, General Donation, or Pledge.)
- You can mail in a check for your current pledge or plate offering to: UUCM, 246 South Church St, Grass Valley, CA 95945. (Please designate in the memo line whether your check is for your pledge, including the pledge year, general donation, or Share-the-Plate.)
- You can give through PayPal at: [paypal.me/uucm](https://paypal.me/uucm) (Please leave a note as to whether your offering is for your pledge, general donation, or Pass-the-Plate.)
- For a general offering donation, you may text your amount to (833) 579-0483. 25% will automatically go to our Share-the-Plate partner.





## Parish Care

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

*We all need extra care sometimes on our journey through life.*

The UUCM Parish Care Team is here to help organize practical support for members and friends through times of need, offering support such as home or hospital visits, transportation to local appointments, a ride to UUCM on Sunday, preparing or delivering a meal, shopping and essential errands. The Parish Care Team also sends cards of caring and celebration, makes friendly phone calls and visits, and assists with hosting and refreshments at memorial services.

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that we all share in the responsibility for one another's care, and we invite all members and friends of UUCM to become actively involved in this wonderfully important opportunity for service. If interested in supporting this work, please fill out this brief [Parish Care Team Volunteer Survey](#) to identify tasks you would be willing to do on occasion. The Parish Caring Team will contact you as needs arise.

For more information, to request care, or to share word of someone in need of care, please contact us at:  
[Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)

### PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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

## 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 contact Rev. Kevin Tarsa 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, Gwen Eymann, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, and Tom Wernigg or email: [Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)  
[minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

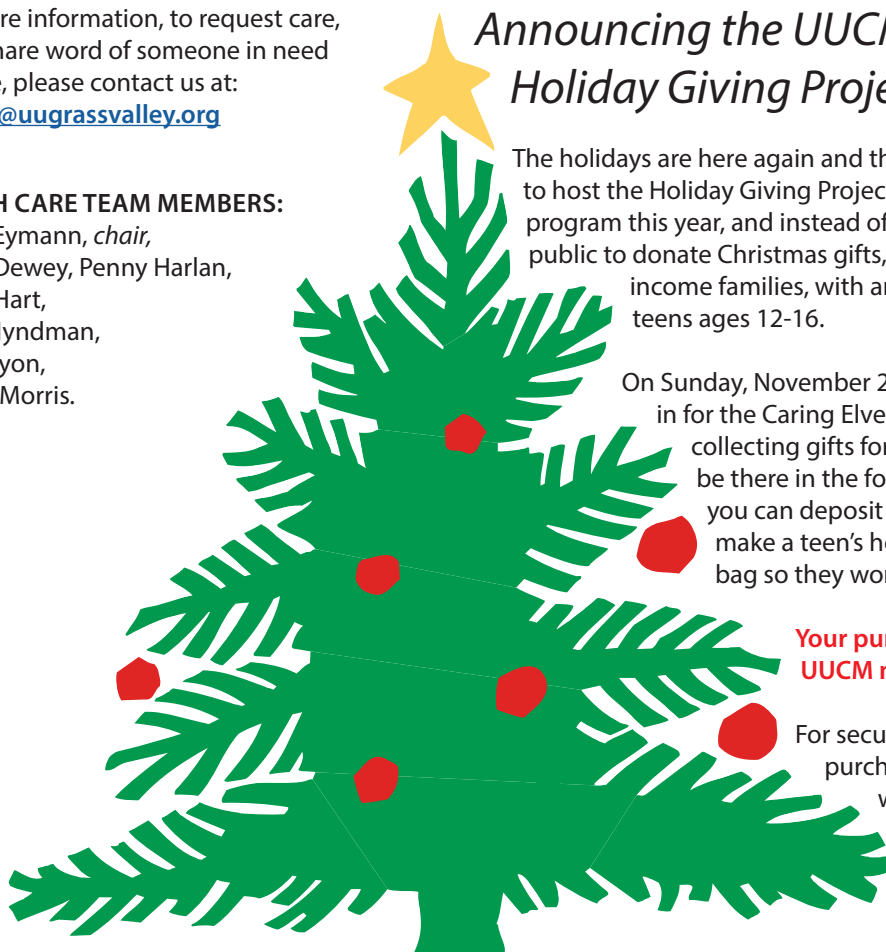
## Announcing the UUCM Holiday Giving Project for 2022

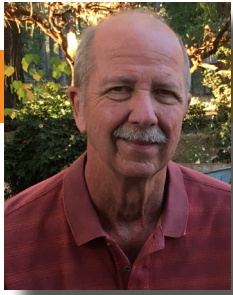
The holidays are here again and that means it's time for the Caring Team to host the Holiday Giving Project. The Salvation Army has changed their program this year, and instead of adopting families, they are asking the public to donate Christmas gifts, toys, and holiday items to help low income families, with an emphasis on presents for teens ages 12-16.

On Sunday, November 20, Gene Gilligan's Soul Matter Circle filled in for the Caring Elves to kick off the giving, and we will be collecting gifts for one more Sunday on December 4. We'll be there in the foyer in front of the Christmas tree where you can deposit your unwrapped gifts and gift cards to make a teen's holiday brighter. (Please put gift cards in a bag so they won't be lost.)

**Your purchased gifts need to be delivered to UUCM no later than Sunday, December 4.**

For security reasons, please do not leave purchased gifts at the tree during the week when there is no one to receive them. You can leave your gifts with Carol Fulkerson during her office hours:  
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM.





## B & G Team

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

### Perfect Weather for a Productive Day

We had perfect weather for this month's workday. We also had two new volunteers, Lisa Haden and Carol Richey. It was a good and productive day. Lisa and Paul Elias cleaned and vacuumed all the chairs. Gwen, Theresa, Carol, Connie, and Phil worked on our outside projects, which entailed pruning the bushes on either side of the Walsh Street door and our general yard and roof clean up. Gwen was also able to clean Carol's office, which had not been done for a long while. As always, it was fun working with other members of our community and accomplishing a lot of work in a timely manner.

Please join us for one of our workdays – they are fun and social! I invite anyone who would like to volunteer two to three hours once a month to help with our building maintenance and meet new people.

*-Wally*

## Facilities Exploration

### Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the next **Facilities Exploration Workshop on January 7, 2023, at 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary.** We will once again gather to consider our future building needs, with further developments from the Committee's explorations of options. We'll also delve deeper into whether and how we can meet our future in our present location. Janet Cohen will once again facilitate our discussion. Stay tuned for more details.



## UPCOMING SERVICES



**Dec. 20 Solstice Eve Celebration**  
Beth Karow, Rev. Kevin and Co.

*Our annual Solstice Eve Celebration aligns the rhythms of our hearts and our spirits with the rhythms of the earth and sky. Come, center yourself in the midst of the holiday hustle. Singing, silence, candlelight, fire (and some hot, spiced cider) guide us around this turning edge of the year.*

*You are invited to bring a simple refreshment to share.*

**Saturday Christmas Eve**  
**Dec. 24** Rev. Kevin Tarsa,  
**4:00 PM** with Randy McKean and Lindsay Dunckel

*Join us as we create together a bit of Christmas magic. We'll weave story, song and action on this night of anticipation as we delve into the wonder that is the Christmas tree.*

**Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**8:00 PM** Rev. Kevin Tarsa,  
with Randy McKean and Lindsay Dunckel

*Carols, candles, elegant evergreens, lovely music, brief poems and reflections, the passing of the light: Christmas Eve steeped in wonder, gentle joy, and your presence.*

**Dec. 25 Yuletide Treasure**  
**10:30 AM** Rev. Kevin Tarsa

*Christmas morning around the piano with Rev. Kevin. In this gentle and not-too-formal service we'll sing, reflect, share joys and sorrows, and immerse ourselves in connection and the gifts of the moment.*





# Justice News and Activities

## Join Us for Monthly Justice Nights

December Justice Night at UUCM  
on Thursday, December 8  
UUCM Potluck at 5:15 PM, Meeting at 6:00 PM

### PRESENTED BY THE Nisenan Project Team Task Force

Frank Lawrence will be talking about his work with the Nisenan, including federal recognition. Learn about this task force's process of working with the Nisenan, how they are beginning to regain land, and more. Question & Answer session to follow.

If you are unable to attend in person,  
please join us through Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82755510773?pwd=cFhhYVp5MEhGZnlyTVZ4Vkp5bWJCdz09>

The Zoom Meeting ID is 827 5551 0773, and the  
passcode is 597096.

## Nisenan Project Team Needs New Active Members

By Eileen Hale, Nisenan Project Team Member  
[nisenan@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:nisenan@uugrassvalley.org)

The Nisenan Project Team's purpose is to work with the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, to give them whatever support they need that we can provide, and, in particular, to educate ourselves and our wider community about the long-time and ongoing presence of the Nisenan here, to help restore their visibility.

We deeply care for this endeavor, but in the past year we have lost or are losing three strong active members to out-of-area moves, and our fearless leader, Carmen, to the impact of a death in her family.

We need more active members to continue our momentum. If this calls to your heart, please contact us at: [nisenan@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:nisenan@uugrassvalley.org). Don't know much about the Nisenan? Join us - we'll be happy to help you learn!



## NISENAN WISDOM



### FIRE:

The Nisenan's accumulated knowledge of the resources of their land gave them to understand their environment was improved by manipulating fire.

They and other tribes inhabiting timbered tracts of land used controlled fire in the fall of the year to enhance migration patterns and animal habitat.



## It's Task Force Renewal Time

By Bob Miller, Justice Team Co-Chair  
[Justice@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Justice@uugrassvalley.org)

As you see from our graphic above, the task forces are an important part of the justice work at UUCM. Task forces are created by a vote of the congregation at a Community Business Meeting and must be renewed by the congregation annually.

**If you are on a task force**, this is the time to take a check point. How is your task force functioning? Is it meeting its goals to make the world a better place? Is there still work to do? Does it justify the continued support of the congregation?

Given you answered positively to those questions, update your "Petition to Establish a Task Force" and your "Strategic Plan." Submit these documents to the Justice Team. If all is well, they will recommend to the Board that your task force be renewed.

UUCM members will vote on your petition to renew at the Community Business Meeting in January.

**If you are interested in forming a new task force**, you'll need to find five members and an additional five supporters. Complete the two forms mentioned above and submit them to the Justice Team.

If you would like more information and help, please attend the next **Justice Team meeting on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:00 PM** or click the zoom link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/91276033097?pwd=a1FYc09zVDhTQjIEU25SdzFrMjZOdz09#success>

# Justice News and Activities

## Share the Plate

UUCM's October partner, [Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release](#), will receive \$1,132.76, 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 November partner, [Bright Futures for Youth](#) (BFFY), who work with the ever changing needs of youth from 6th graders to those in their mid-twenties. Their focus is on health and wellness, healthy relationships, and community connectedness.



Our December Share the Plate recipient is [Hospitality House](#), whose mission is to "bring homeless people in Nevada County into a circle of community caring that offers shelter, sustenance, medical advocacy, opportunity, dignity, and hope as they are assisted in transitioning from homelessness to housing." UUCM members have long been active in supporting Hospitality House, including the UUCM dinner crew which purchases, prepares, and serves dinner to their guests on the third and fifth Fridays of every month.

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



*By Anne Lyon, IFM Board Representative*

## December at IFM

### ***Sponsor A Family for the Holidays campaign has begun!***

All donations go towards providing Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for our clients. The goal this year is to feed 1,000 families! Look for a new Gift Catalog on the IFM website, that shows what items you might also "purchase" with your donation, e.g.,

\$50.00 buys one ham or turkey

\$25.00 buys 24 cans cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes or green beans.

You can donate in the name of someone as a gift in their name and an acknowledgment card will be sent.

**IFM needs Volunteers** - Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Checkers, drivers, packers and sorters. To volunteer, please call Venus at IFM: (530) 273-8132

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

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

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 IN PERSON

*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.

## Make Connections at UUCM

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!

### WALKING GROUP - NOW AT 8:30 AM

Hey sleepy heads! Your excuses are no longer valid, our walking group will start meeting at 8:30 AM on **Thursday**, December 1 at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley. **Tuesdays** will still be at Wolf Creek Trail. These winter hours will continue until early sun and heat inspire us to go earlier. Be sure to ask Carol Fulkerson to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can be informed of winter weather cancellations. Email [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, 7:30 to 8:30 PM, onsite and via Zoom  
Contact [SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org)

### WOMEN'S CIRCLE MONTHLY POTLUCK –

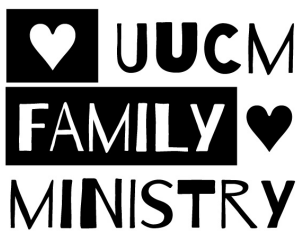
#### SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM

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.

The December Potluck theme will be HOLIDAY! Bring your favorite traditional menu items from past holiday dinners. We'll plan to take a collection to share with a charity rather than exchange gifts with each other. We will meet at UUCM.

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.





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

## December Tidings

*By Jo Waters, Leader, UUCM Family Ministry Team*

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

The theme for this month of December is Wonder. We will spend the month asking ourselves, "What does it mean to be a people of wonder?" The Soul Matters materials on this theme include the following quote about wonder by Caspar Henderson:

*"Wonder is, among other things, an act of deep attention."*

When we truly pay attention to the world, we cannot help but view it with wonder. The world truly is "wonder-full," as anyone who has spent time with a young child will know. As adults, however, we may have forgotten how to see the wonder in the world. Let's take some time this month to deepen our attention, to find the wonder all around us, and to celebrate it with those we love.

## HAPPENINGS

- **Thursday, December 15** is the final 3rd Thursday Game Night to be held at Jo Waters' home at 6:00 PM. Please RSVP and bring a dish to share.
- **Sunday, December 18** is Lindsay Dunckel's All Ages Service.
- **On Tuesday, December 20 at noon**, Chanti Smith will lead a Solstice ritual during our Parents Group Gathering at the church.
- **Family Choir for parents and children under 10** will continue every Sunday through the **December 18 at 12:30 PM** led by Gabrielle Lawson.
- Older youth are welcome at the **Adult Choir** rehearsals on **Wednesday evenings at 6:30**. Performances are scheduled for **Sunday Service on December 11** and **Christmas Eve at 8:00 PM**.

## Sunday Book Group

### UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

USUALLY THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:30 PM  
IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM

**December 4**      *Once There Were Wolves*  
by Charlotte McConaghy

We shift to fiction for our December group. We will be discussing *Once There Were Wolves* by Charlotte McConaghy. Inti Flynn arrives in Scotland with her twin sister Aggie to lead a group of biologists in reintroducing wolves to the Scottish highlands. She hopes to heal not only the dying land, but Aggie too, unmade by the terrible secrets that drove the sisters from Alaska.

**January 8**      *A Country Doctor*  
by Sarah Orne Jewett

Our January reading was written in 1884. In this novel Nan struggles to choose between marriage and a career as a doctor: the confines of life in a small town and a self-directed one as a professional, eloquently giving voice to one of the leading women's issues of the time.

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

## Writing Connection

### Writing Connection with Jenny

*By Jenny Dewey*

Mondays from 2:00 to 3:30 PM in the UUCM Library  
December 5, 19, 26

These sessions are geared for people who wish to know more about writing narrative fiction or non-fiction. The emphasis is on the basic principles of writing as a means to connect. We write, sometimes from prompts, share, and discuss ideas, thoughts, and feelings about writing. Sessions are held in the UUCM Library.

The Writing Connection group is currently full, but if you are interested in finding out more about it, please contact Jenny Dewey at [uucm246JD@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:uucm246JD@uugrassvalley.org).



## *Soul Matters:*

### *Welcome to the Path of Wonder*

*"This seems to me the main problem... How can we contrive to be at once astonished at the world and yet at home in it?... How can this world give us at once the fascination of a strange town and the comfort and honor of being our own town?"*

*- G.K. Chesterton*

The path of wonder seems well worn. It's a journey that brings us down to size. Just think of those pictures which reveal that our galaxy is just one of billions more. Or think of when you've stared into the empty darkness of a midnight sky or an endless ocean. Such images remind us that the universe is more vast than we can imagine. They leave us with a sense of wonder that overwhelms. In the face of such an incomprehensible abyss, one can't help but feel humbled and small.

But religion never wants us to stop there. Hold on, it says. Just stand at the abyss a bit longer. Lean in a little bit more. And when you do, you'll realize that this path doesn't end with a deep darkness that doesn't care. No, if we remain there in witness long enough, a new message emerges. You look into the vast mystery and surprisingly, it stares back, as if to say, "Welcome home."

As astronomers tell us, contemplation of the vast universe doesn't make them feel smaller; it makes them realize the larger story of which they are a part. We are stardust, as they say. From the vastness we came and to it we will return. In other words, the path of wonder is not so much about feeling small; it's about feeling connected.

And not just connected to the stars, but also to each other. Wonder and its cousin, Awe, reduce us in order to make room for something more than our self-centered needs, wants, and worries. With our narcissism shrunk down to a reasonable size, it becomes possible to notice that we are not the only ones up there on the stage. It's in this way that looking up into the cosmos allows us to look across at each other. Which is, of course, a huge gift, because while being center stage and center of the universe can feel powerful, it's also a very lonely place to be.

So friends, don't just look up at the stars this month. Let's make sure that our looking up leads to us looking across. And as we do, may we - like our friend G.K. Chesterton - not simply be astonished at the universe, but also feel at home in it.



## *Upcoming 2022-23 Soul Matters Themes*

### *The Path of...*

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



# December 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
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
UUCM Holiday Giving Project for 2022	2:00 Writing Connection – with Jenny Dewey	8:00 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:00 Thursday Walking Group	4:00 UUCM Strings ensemble coordinator	1:00 Membership Team Meeting
10:30 Good News, Bad News		6:30 Starting Point	6:30 Choir! Choir! Choir!	7:00 Singing Meditation		
10:45 Kids' Connection						
12:30 Drop-In Support Group						
12:30 Family Choir						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
UUCM Holiday Giving Project for 2022	2:00 Writing Connection – with Jenny Dewey	8:00 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:00 Thursday Walking Group	4:00 UUCM Strings ensemble coordinator	12:00 UU 101
10:30 Remembrance – Rev. Kevin Tarsa and UUCM's newest members	4:00 Stop the Mine Task Force	4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting	10:30 Humanism Discussion Group	10:30 Writers' Group		3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle
10:45 Kids' Connection		6:30 Starting Point	6:00 Worship Team Meeting	2:00 Finance Committee Meeting		
12:30 Book Group			6:30 Choir! Choir! Choir!	6:00 Justice Night   Nisenan Task Force		
12:30 Drop-In Support Group						
12:30 Family Choir						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 Singing Into Silence – Rev. Kevin	6:00 Women's Circle	8:00 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:00 Thursday Walking Group	4:00 UUCM Strings ensemble coordinator	9:00 Building and Grounds Workday
10:45 Kids' Connection		6:30 Starting Point	4:30 Ministry Council Meeting	6:00 Game Night!		
12:30 Drop-In Support Group			6:30 Choir! Choir! Choir!			
12:30 Family Choir						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 What Child Is This? – Lindsay Duncel	2:00 Writing Connection – with Jenny Dewey	8:00 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:00 Thursday Walking Group	4:00 UUCM Strings ensemble coordinator	4:00 Christmas Eve – Rev. Kevin Tarsa
10:45 Kids' Connection		5:15 Nisenan Project Team Meeting	1:30 Board of Trustees Meeting	10:30 Writers' Group		8:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Rev. Kevin Tarsa
12:30 Drop-In Support Group		7:00 Solstice Eve Celebration – Beth Karow, with Rev. Kevin and co.	5:00 Justice Team Meeting			
12:30 Family Choir			6:30 Choir! Choir! Choir!			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:30 Yuletide Treasure – Rev. Kevin Tarsa	UUCM Office Closed	8:00 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:00 Thursday Walking Group	4:00 UUCM Strings ensemble coordinator	
10:45 Kids' Connection	2:00 Writing Connection – with Jenny Dewey		6:30 Choir! Choir! Choir!			
12:30 Drop-In Support Group						
1:00 Christmas Day Potluck						





## 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 in person**

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

### UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

### TELEPHONE

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

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(530) 274-1661

Carol Fulkerson, *Office Manager*

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(530) 274-1675

Mary Lindsay, *Communications Coordinator*

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

(530) 274-1675

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

***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*