

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

February 2023

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 •••

FEBRUARY THEME: *The Path of Love*

February 5 Languages of Love –
Beth Karow, Tracy Pepper, Worship Associates

The Languages of Love: How can we expect others to love us in the way we want to be loved when we haven't quite figured out what that is? Fish, meet water. Water, fish.

February 12 When Love is Not Enough
Rev. Jan Onnie, Beth Karow, Tracy Pepper,
Worship Associates

Aside from the Beatle's assertion that Love is All You Need, there are times in everyone's life when love is not enough to carry us through life's challenges. Join the Reverend Janet Onnie as we explore love in relationships.

February 19 The Superpower of a Tender Heart
Lindsay Dunckel

Have you ever had your heart break open in response to something you read or saw? A tender heart would seem a fragile thing, but what if it's really a superpower? Join us as we consider how the tenderness of our hearts can make the world a better place.

February 26 What's Love Got to Do With It?

Rev. Jan Onnie,
Beth Karow, Tracy Pepper, Worship Associates

What would the world look like if our leaders (local, state, national, and global) used love as the framework for developing policies and actions?

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Reflections for Renewal Times



Rev. Jan Onnie
UUCM Sabbatical Minister

It's the middle of January and the Virginia redbuds, which normally appear around April, are beginning to bud. In my backyard's red clay soil there are signs of crocuses starting to push their way around the construction debris to find some light and air. Yesterday I saw a hawk perched on the utility wires in front of my house waiting for food that doesn't usually arrive until late March. And you all in California have been affected more than many of us by confounding weather patterns. To paraphrase President Biden, "Anyone who doesn't believe the climate is changing has been asleep for the past several years."

I was born and raised in Cleveland. The "lake effect" was such that I could get on train at the airport on the West side of town, travel to my sister's place on the East side, and experience at least two weather incidences. It was clear at the airport and snowing by the time I reached Case Western Reserve University. Weather was a constant topic of conversation at my maternal grandparents' dairy farm outside Hiram College. Northeast Ohioans talk a lot about weather. The only constant was that it was grey and overcast for 5 months of the year.

I met my husband of 54 years at Case...Institute of Technology. He is from Kansas, where winters are generally carried out under big blue sunny skies. Yes, it's cold, but it's bright. He said his hardest adjustment moving 'back East' for college was the greyness of Cleveland.

Grey was the least of our problems in Boston. In New England it snowed. A lot. And they never seemed to close anything to accommodate it. Minus a car we used bicycles to get to grad school (him) and work (me). And everywhere in between. I was happy to return to grey winters in Pittsburgh, where we acquired a car. The potholes caused by melting snow were truly awe-inspiring. And axle-breaking.

The grey Pittsburgh winters were the straw that broke my husband's tolerance for weather in the Rust Belt. He found a job in Bermuda and we moved. But before you get

too envious, let me assure you that Bermuda has winter, too. Having tossed all my wool and flannel before leaving Pittsburgh I discovered that March on an island with a moped for transportation was a damp cold that penetrated to the bone. But at least it was sunny. I got a new batch of sweaters and an appreciation for island weather.

Returning to the U.S. and Washington, DC., everything in DC was grey: the sky, the clothes, the people. Every so often there was snow, and everything closed down. But the tropic bug was embedded and we moved between Arlington, Virginia and a shack on the tiny island of Salt Cay in the Turks and Caicos Islands. There were three seasons in Salt Cay: the mosquito season, the ant season, and the fly season. Cockroaches were always in season. Well, actually four seasons. I forgot hurricane season. But there was mostly sunshine and the trade winds.

I continued to think in terms of weather when we moved to Florida in 2011. It wasn't until the summers became longer and hotter and the hurricanes came more often and with greater intensity that I started to think about climate. I am guilty of the President's charge. I've been asleep for most of my life, not noticing that all these weather events were part of a larger pattern of change. Now I'm wide awake and noticing and reacting. I'm

also wondering. Composting, recycling, and all the rest of it doesn't seem to have a big enough impact. I'm wondering what will.

- Rev. Jan



REV. JAN'S OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday, & Friday between
10:00 AM and 2:00 PM Pacific Time**

**Contact Rev. Jan at revjanet@uugrassvalley.org
or 530-278-5091 to schedule a time to talk via Zoom.
... Email is her preferred method of communication. ...**

*Due to the 3-hour time difference, messages that come after
6:00 PM PT may not be answered until the following day,
unless there is an emergency.*

*She wants to support UUCM-ers in times of crisis, so in an
EMERGENCY, don't hesitate to phone or text her anytime.*



Board of Trustees

René Wiley, Vice President,
UUCM Board of Trustees
vicepresident@uugrassvalley.org

A VIEW FROM FEBRUARY'S PATH OF LOVE

What a time to be journeying together on the path of love! After spending what seems like forever balancing on the threshold of change, it seemed that 2023 needed a tremendous shove to finally get going. I don't know about you, but since centering with love to see Rev. Kevin on his sabbatical way and beginning our shared renewal time, it feels that we are finally moving forward. There is a general sense of shaking off the old ideas, embracing what remains, and starting with fresh hope. Beloved Community life is thriving and asking what value is placed on shared covenant, who will we become, what will be created. Centered on love, here's what I can see along the path already:

- Voting resoundingly to continue powerful justice work by the UCCM task forces at the mid-year community business meeting filled all present with a renewed commitment to equity - a love that liberates.
- Making continued progress within the Facilities Exploration committee, providing next steps to help members discern the best space for UUCM to be fully accessible and more welcoming, to grow into fulfilling our mission--perhaps with a twisty-tunnel slide play space!-- with a love that sustains into the future.
- Seeking opportunities to find meaning and growth, with special thanks to our visionary ministries, committees, and small groups, while reimagining the ways we connect and weave together in community – a love that binds.
- Watching families held in UUCM's steady care and commitment to support FUN and faith formation.
- Welcoming Aiden McCarthy as a Sunday School teacher – a love that trusts the process.
- Accepting so many blessings for our collective renewal as we extend warmth and openness to our sabbatical minister, Rev. Jan. This will be a shared time to serve one another and discover who we are becoming - a love that restores.

At church mid-year, I know there is much work ahead and we are moving forward with clarity and purpose. I'm excited to see all that might be accomplished on this journey. What a time to be on the path of love! Though it may at times be muddy and rough, may we continue to find love at the center of who we are and all that we do. We will get there, together.

– With gratitude for you in this Beloved Community,

– René



UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Pam Kisor | <i>President</i> |
| Rene Wiley | <i>Vice-President</i> |
| Gail Schultz | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| Janet Dunstan | <i>Secretary</i> |

Members at Large:

Taylor Carey 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.

Each month, we highlight a member of our outstanding team so you can get to know us just a little bit better. This month's Board Spotlight is Board President, Pam Kisor.

Please visit our website (Staff and Board – UUCM (uugrassvalley.org)) to see Staff and Board Bios and past Spotlights.

WHAT DOES UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM MEAN TO YOU?

For me Unitarian Universalism provides an open, loving, and welcoming place for people with shared values to explore spirituality and put into practice actions that improve our world.

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT ROLE AT UUCM.

As UUCM Board President I am responsible for guiding the Board's work in the best interest of our community. This includes listening to others, identifying priorities, making decisions, setting policies, hiring employees, and establishing committees that help us manage the infrastructure of UUCM.

WHEN DID YOU BEGIN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

I began as Board Vice President in 2020 and became President in 2021.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE BEST ABOUT FULFILLING YOUR ROLE?

I love the connections I have made with fellow Board members and with members of the UUCM community. Connections that I might not have had the opportunity to form had I not been on the Board.

WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST CHALLENGING ABOUT FULFILLING YOUR ROLE?

The work itself! There seems to be more to do all of the time. I am sure that I am failing retirement on certain days that are filled with the work of the Board.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

Though I may at times grumble about the work, I do love being on the Board. The work is challenging and good for my brain! I get to use the many skills that I developed throughout my work life. And the Board members are fun, dedicated, and



loving people who I delight in knowing and working with.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY (PETS, PEOPLE, ETC.)

I have been married to my husband, Gary, for 50 lovely years. We have 3 adult children, their 3 spouses, and 4 grandchildren. Our family is very close and we delight in each other's company. We often all vacation together and seem to enjoy these gatherings more and more as time goes

by. I feel blessed by my family and know that our joy in each other is a rare gift. One thing we do particularly well together is laugh. The other is argue politics!

IF YOU COULD CHOOSE ANYONE AS A MENTOR, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE AND WHY?

Rev. Kevin. (The why is obvious to anyone who knows him.)

WHAT TOP THREE TRAITS DEFINE YOU?

Honesty, straightforwardness, and a good sense of humor.

WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU CANNOT RESIST?

My son-in-law's 300-foot water slide. He builds it every summer. It runs down a steep hillside and lands in a great muddy pool. I can't wait to slide down, the faster the better. We use liquid soap on our backsides to get the fastest ride! My children all think it is a bad idea to let me go, but I don't listen. :-)

WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO BE? (ONLY NON-CHURCH ANSWERS ALLOWED!!)

My back yard on a sunny (but not too hot) day, watching the many birds and animals that enjoy our lake. Maybe reading a good book at the same time. Always a novel - pure escapism - nothing that is designed to make me a "better person"!

WHAT'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU (A FUN FACT) THAT NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW?

I became a potter in my retirement years. I have a studio with a potter's wheel, kiln, and glazes. I love the chemistry and the making of useful and artistic items. I also love that I don't have to communicate verbally or supervise anyone while I am making pots!

Membership Team

Laura Harter and Kate Canan, Co-Leaders,
Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

UU 101 is BACK!

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 us for meaningful and fun connection as well as information at "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! The Membership Committee will be leading these sessions after church from 12:00 – 200 PM on the third Sundays of each month: February 19, March 19, April 16, and May 21.

If you attend one of these sessions and wish to explore in a deeper way, the next Starting Point session will be held this summer after the Rev. Kevin returns. This five-part series is highly recommended for those who are considering membership, and we also welcome current members. Stay tuned for dates.



Circle Suppers are HERE!

SIGN UP FOR ONE NOW!

What's a Circle Supper? For our newer visitors and new members, a Circle Supper is a small potluck hosted in a member's home. The host provides an entrée and a theme, and you can sign up to bring drinks, side dishes, or appetizers. It's a great way to get to know each other.

We have six hosts who are on board and eager to hold a gathering. Shannon Dooley-Miller has created sign-up sheets that will be available at Sunday's services for the next few weeks. The Greeters can help direct you and answer any questions you have. Once you sign up, your host will be in touch to coordinate with you.

The following is in the works:

Kathryn & Taylor - February 4 for 6 guests -
Chicken Enchilada Casserole

Martha Turner - February 4 for 4 guests -
North African Chicken Dish

Gwen Eymann - February 10 for 6 guests -
Vegetarian Butternut Squash Lasagna

Laura Harter - February 18 for 4 guests -
Persian Meal: Khomeh Bademjan (eggplant & tomatoes) and
Persian Rice with Tahdig (crispy saffron rice)
all dairy- and meat-free.

Pam Kisor - February 24 for 6 guests -
Turkey Lasagna

Theresa Houtman - February 28 for 6 guests -
Tamale Pie

So, yum! There are plenty of opportunities to dine and share time together this February. If you aren't sure what to bring, a host can give suggestions. Don't like to cook? There is always a way to participate and join in.

Look for sign-up sheets in the foyer or email Shannon at
shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org

A lot of great fun, food and local UU talent was enjoyed at our second Open Mic night and Soup Supper at UUCM on Saturday, January 14

Membership Events

Save the Date! St. Paddy's Ceilidh at UUCM Saturday, March 18

We will have a traditional Irish meal of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, Irish soda bread, and more from 5:00 to 6:00 PM and three hours of live Celtic music, dancing, poetry, and stories from 6:00 to 9:00, plus an Irish Pub with beer, wine, "Irish Mules," Irish Coffee, and more!

Tickets go on sale March 1.
\$25 for Dinner and Entertainment, or \$20 for just the Ceilidh.

If you are interested in helping with the event, there are lots of fun jobs including cooking, set up, serving, clean up, and bar-tending. Shannon would love to match you up with a job that you'd enjoy -- contact her at shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org



A vibrant green poster for St. Patrick's Day. At the top, a decorative border features a green shamrock, a gold infinity symbol, and another green shamrock on a blue and red background. The main text is set against a green background with a pattern of light green shamrocks. The text reads: "St. Patrick's Day" in a red, cursive font; "CEILIDH" in large, white, outlined letters; "Save the Date: Saturday, March 18" in red; "Celtic Music Dancing Traditional Dinner & Pub" in white; and "Tickets go on sale in February!" in white. At the bottom, the same decorative border as the top is repeated.



Art Team

Robin Hart, Leader,
Art & Aesthetics Team
art@uugrassvalley.org

The Art and Aesthetics Team is now meeting every other month, so there was no meeting in January. However, Phil Horning and Robin Hart helped install Barbara Chestnut's show of wall quilts in the library gallery for its January 15 opening.

Barbara's quilts will be on display from January 15 – March 15. We are very pleased that our calendar is filling up for the year. We have two slots open right now: September 15 – November 15 and November 15 – January 15 (2024). If you are interested in showing your artwork, please contact us at art@uugrassvalley.org

LIBRARY ART GALLERY SHOW SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Barbara Chesnut – Wall Quilts – January 15 – March 15
Shanti Emerson – Ceramics - March 15 – May 15
Linda Siska – Art Quilts – May 15 – July 15
Lisa Haden – Art Works – July 15 – September 15

We are looking to recruit a few new members this year to help us with the task of making UUCM more spiritually and aesthetically pleasing to our congregation. If you are interested contact us at art@uugrassvalley.org.

*Take care, enjoy the winter, and
keep a rainbow in your hearts!*

- Robin



Barbara Chestnut sits with a selection of her art quilts, currently on display in the UUCM Library Art Gallery.



Stewardship

Maryann Currington,
Leader, Stewardship Team

We're Grateful for Generous and Committed Congregation!

I have had a smile on my face for the past few weeks, and the smile is only a reflection of the pride I have in our UU Community of the Mountains. Our latest pledge report shows that over 70% of our 2022-23 pledge commitments have been satisfied at only half-way through the fiscal year. Moreover, our initial pledge commitment has grown due to pledging from new members after June 30, 2022. We are truly a congregation of generous people.

Talking about money seems to be unrelated to living a life of commitment and/or spirituality. And yet, the act of giving money freely and generously, because you care about something greater than yourself, is a spiritual act.

Our dedicated Stewards who have graciously volunteered to contact members is another example of caring and generosity. It is not always easy to contact someone whom you know only as a name in the UUCM directory! We start from the knowledge that we all share common values and a respect for our common mission. Our goal is a web of UUCM interconnection and helping each member get the most from their experience in this community. Knowing one another better increases our mutual level of empathy and commitment.

Please, if you have not already done so, respond to the email you were sent or the phone message you received. You are in for a pleasant experience getting to know someone better and strengthening the "UUCM web."

The future of our community, with resolute and generous members, seems full of potential as we prepare for our 2023-2024 Pledge Invitation. **Our Kick-off Sunday with Reverend Janet Onnie is February 26**, and we're planning an invitation to celebrate our future.

With Love and Respect,
-Maryann



Facilities Exploration

Gail Schulz, Leader
Facilities Exploration Team

Update from the Facilities Exploration Committee

A big thank you to all who attended our workshop on January 7. Despite rain and lousy weather, we had over 20 people in the room and the same number on Zoom. Much information was shared, and if you were not there but want to share, look at the website, under Membership, and Member resources, and you will find a copy of Rev. Kevin's lovely inspiring words for us and all of our slides from the presentation.

We are beginning to narrow in a bit in terms of what is realistic and best to serve our community long term. Jeff Gold gave a detailed presentation about what we can do with remodeling our Church Street property and about what it would cost. It is sobering to look at the cost benefit analysis. Meanwhile, we have been speaking with the church next door, which brings its own set of issues, including, for example, would we want to go to Sunday afternoon services long term?

We have also begun to look around the community at other options for relocation, and we are committed to keeping all of our community up to date on what is going on. Please, stay tuned, watch for our updates, and continue to be a part of this process. Nothing will be decided for this community; you, the UUCM Community, will be the decision makers!

- The Facilities Exploration Committee,
Gail Schulz, Jeff Gold, Wally Holtan, Joel Houtman, Beth Karow, Alec MacLean





Parish Care

Gwen Eymann
Leader, UUCM Parish Care Team
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

PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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



Lay Pastoral Care Team

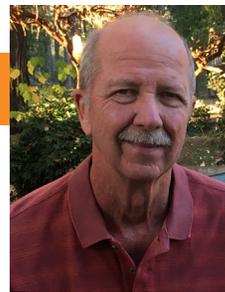
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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 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 companionship presence from one of our team members might be helpful to you.

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

George Dunstan, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, and Tom Wernigg
or email: laypastoralcare@uugrassvalley.org



B & G Team

Wally Holtan, *Leader*,
Building & Grounds Team
B-G@uugrassvalley.org

Getting Stuff Done While Having Fun!

We had a cool morning with clear skies for last month's workday. Carol and Theresa trimmed the Walsh St spruce, and they did a wonderful job. George, Gwen and Phil worked on the yard which had a lot of debris from the recent wave of storms that have hit our area. Lisa and Keith worked inside, with Lisa cleaning Carol's office and Keith vacuuming the chairs which were somehow extra dirty. As always it was a fun day working with members of our community and accomplishing our 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 to meet new people.

-Wally

January's Building and Grounds Team made light work of tidying up both our indoors and outdoors spaces! Join us!

A Different Sort of Profile

by Jenny Dewey

AUTHOR NOTE: The author had a candidate in mind for February's profile. The individual selected was unavailable at the last minute. The author decided a unique profile was better than none at all. So here you have it:

A Different Sort of Profile.

He sleeps, hides from danger (as he perceives it) and has attitude. He is courageous (when needed) and has strong opinions. He is mistrustful of others until he gets to know them. A passion for food would probably bring him back if he ever decided to run away. Besides, his family guards against him running off.

Although he puts on a show of being brave, his relationships with others are limited because he is often afraid.

Much of the time he is not available for affection. When he decides to be available, he likes to be appreciated, even hugged.

He is playful when in the mood, and a little hostile otherwise. He is good at playing with his own toys, but hopeless when it comes to putting them away.

He is not for sale.

He is an "only child."

A favorite sport, to which he is addicted, is looking out

the window on the chance he might see a kindred soul, and sometimes this happens. When it does, he shivers with happiness. This is a wonderful thing to see. Heat is essential to his happiness, which means cold is a condition that makes him sullen.



Reading, spelling, or even speaking English properly, are not skills he possesses, and never will.

And yes, he has a name. He is called Roo. He is named for what happened to him when he was half dead, which is to say when he was a scrawny, starving, morsel of a kitten.

After being rescued off the street Roo was carried around in a cloth bag hung over his new owner's shoulder. The kitten in the bag brought on the idea of naming him after a kangaroo's baby, a "Joey." Roo somehow fit him better than Joey, although no one can explain why.

Roo does not have a middle or last name.

In case someone wonders if Roo has a full and satisfying life, the fact is he does. Although he is what some call a "house cat" the decision to keep him inside is for his own protection. It's a wild, crazy world out there. No use taking chances with a medium-sized cat with huge yellow eyes and devotion to his owner.

UUCM – A Good Trouble Congregation

By Keith Johnson, Justice Co-Chair



Our Bending the Arc Taskforce has just been notified that UUA recognizes UUCM as a UU The Vote 2022 Good Trouble Congregation. Your efforts earned us this coveted designation.

The late Congressman John Lewis said "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." UU the Vote challenged congregations to show up in 2022 to vote love and defeat hate as a UU the Vote Good Trouble Congregation. STEP UP WE DID!

Being a UU isn't just about believing in justice, equity, and compassion, but making those values come alive by what we do. To be a Good Trouble Congregation we had to meet 4 of 7 criteria. Here's how we did on the ones we chose:

- Average 20 postcards or letters per member; **UUCM averaged 100 per member**
- Reach 20 percent volunteer engagement; **UUCM had 44.3%**
- Average 20 calls per member; **UUCM averaged 20**
- At least 2 congregants are line warmers, poll workers, or poll watchers; **UUCM had 2+**

UU The Vote will celebrate and honor our work at our [Good Trouble Celebration on Tuesday, February 28 at 4:00 PM PT](#). UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray will officially announce our congregation at this national ceremony and celebration. The program includes storytelling, music, and an address from a special keynote speaker (announcement coming soon).

Join us at UUCM for a Celebration Watch Party or watch at home by clicking the link in the above paragraph.

AN IMPORTANT NEW POSTCARD OPPORTUNITY!

And the good work continues! Let's not rest on our laurels... **Pick up a postcard packet in the UUCM foyer** to get out the vote for the Virginia 4th Congressional District special election to replace their Democratic representative who died last November. We need you!

Stop the Mine Task Force Update

Save the date - February 19 after the Sunday service. The Stop the Mine Task Force will be hosting a discussion of the current status of the proposed reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine by Rise Gold. Charlie Brock will be the featured speaker. Please come and learn why the mine would be an environmental disaster for us all. Charlie will explain what we can do now to let our voices be heard in opposition to this project. Time is of the essence as the Planning Commission will be making a recommendation and the Board of Supervisors will be making a decision for or against the mine very soon.

This presentation will be in person and on zoom. The zoom link is the same link for the Sunday service which can be found at www.uugrassvalley.org or you can click the link below.

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

For more information contact justice@uugrassvalley.org or stopthemin@uugrassvalley.org

JUSTICE TEAM MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AFTER THE SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

Justice Team will discuss the **Stop the Mine Task Force** progress and bring everyone up to date on where we are and what we need to work on.

Light refreshments served – post service coffee hour.

Please plan to join us.



Photo from the well-attended community forum about Stop the Mine at UUCM.

Share the Plate



UUCM's December Share the Plate recipient, [Hospitality House](#), will receive \$983.76, thanks to generous UUCM members, friends, and visitors. The mission of Hospitality House is to bring homeless people in Nevada County into a circle of community caring that offers shelter, sustenance, medical care, advocacy, opportunity, dignity, and hope as we assist them in transitioning from homelessness to housing. These weekly donations add up - thank you all.



As of this writing, we are currently finishing up collections for our January partner, [Sierra Roots](#). Sierra Roots serves chronically homeless individuals by building personal relationships and providing for immediate needs of nutritious hot meals, clothing, and shelter especially during severe weather events in the communities of Nevada City and Grass Valley.



Our February Share the Plate recipient is [Community Beyond Violence](#). Community Beyond Violence's mission is to offer resources for building healthy relationships and to work with community partners to provide services for healing the effects of interpersonal violence.

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

Justice News



Interfaith Food Ministry Update

By Ann Lyon



Client visits increased to over 91,000 – a record breaker for IFM. IFM is proud to have served 210,000 bags of food this past year! Without the wonderful volunteer help from local churches, that would not have been possible.

IFM could use added help in all positions. For descriptions of volunteer positions, visit their website at www.interfaithfoodministry.org

Community Connections

Calling All String Musicians!

By Claire Miller

ClaireMiller@uugrassvalley.org

We celebrated our first public appearance at UUCM on Sunday, December 18 and are now ready for Phase 2 of this adventure!

If you play the violin, viola, or cello, now is a great time to check out the UUCM String Ensemble.

Rehearsals are every Friday from 4:15 PM to 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

Our goals are to have fun, progress in our musical skill (from whatever level we are currently), learn new things, avoid stress of any kind, be inclusive of everyone who wants to participate, and HAVE FUN!



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

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

The Circle's mission is to provide confidential peer support for UUCM folks on a drop-in basis (now also 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

Hey sleepy heads! Our walking group meets at 8:30 AM on **Thursdays** at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley. **Tuesdays** are 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 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



HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:30 AM

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

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

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

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7:00 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM
Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org

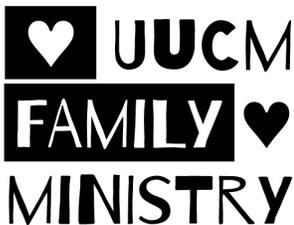
WOMEN'S CIRCLE MONTHLY POTLUCK – SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM

All UUCM women (and friends!) are invited to any Women's Circle gathering. Come make connections with other UUCM women – have a few laughs, share stories and concerns. We will continue to potluck whenever we can.

Our next meeting is Monday, February 13. Debbie Edmondson, Shanti's certified qigong instructor friend, is excited about instructing us at the meeting. We will meet at UUCM, start with a half hour qigong lesson, which will be tailored to all ages and abilities, followed by a potluck.

If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please send an email to Carol Fulkerson at: admin@uugrassvalley.org and she will add you. You'll get monthly updates and reminders of our meetings, and you can participate in discussions about our activities.

Sunday Book Group



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

The Path of Love

By Jo Waters, Leader, UUCM Family Ministry Team

familyministry@uugrassvalley.org

How appropriate is it that the theme for February is *Love*! This is the month of Valentine's Day of course, but it's also a time of new beginnings for many things. In the world of UUCM, Rev. Jan Onnie has joined us as our sabbatical leave minister, we have hired Aiden McCarthy to be our new Kids Connection teacher (mentored by Lindsay and myself), and one of our new members, Cheryl Spaulding, has decided to join our Family Ministry Team. Out in the world of nature, February is when we see the first signs of new growth of plants and animals. This "stirring of the seeds" happens both underground and in the buds of the trees. We will likely see the first blooms of daffodils and fruit trees this month. And we celebrate this new growth with a ritual in the pagan tradition on Saturday, February 11 at noon in our Sanctuary.

OTHER ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH INCLUDE:

YUUth DnD led by Rowyn Karow – watch for email with more details

Scrabble Club

Saturday, February 4 at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary

Community Book Swap

Sunday, February 5 from 12:00 – 2:00 PM at Brown Banana Books on Maltman Drive in Grass Valley

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

- **Kids Connection** will be available every Sunday in February.
- **Sunday, February 19** is Lindsay Dunckel's **All Ages Service** which is called: **The Superpower of a Tender Heart** What is new in your yard? In your heart? In your world?

UUCM SUNDAY BOOK GROUP -

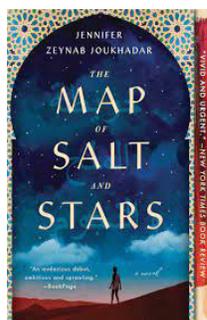
USUALLY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:30 PM IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM

CONTACT: Theresa at BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org

A list of all the books we've chosen through October of 2023 was published in the January Mt Chalice newsletter, so if you need a reminder, you can find that issue on our UUCM Website: www.UUGrassValley.org

February 12 - How To Change Your Mind, by Michael Pollan, 2019, 464 pages.

In this book, Michael Pollan writes about his own consciousness expanding experiments with LSD and psilocybin. He makes a case for why shaking up the brain's old habits could be therapeutic for people facing addiction, depression, and death. Presenter: Jo Waters



March 12, 2023 - A Map of Salt and Stars, by Zein Joukhadar, 2018, 368 pages.

The ancient, sometimes mystical connection between maps, people, and knowledge is central to this first novel by Zoukhadar. It is a double tale of voyage and exile that moves between contemporary war-torn Syria and the caravansaries and khans of the past. Maps are mentioned on almost every page: not just making them but the decisions that

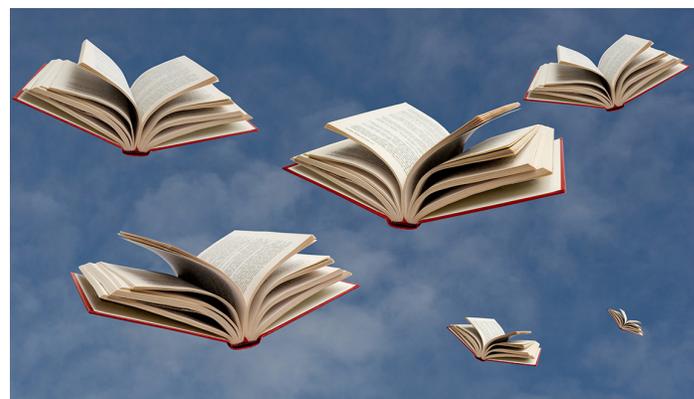
making them involves, what lands they cover, and what lands they leave out. Presenter: Susan Merrill

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/9271118322?pwd=c2w5M0VoMEdvKzVLQkIFUzJ3S2Zndz09>

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984





Soul Matters: The Path of Love

The path of love.
It began from the beginning,
for most of us.
Came in the form of family.
A bloodline that brought us
into being,
and at its best, allowed us to
bloom.

Then sent us on our way with
courage,
and a reminder tucked into the
pocket

of our heart
which read, "You can always return,
no matter what."

Its shape then shifted, showing up as friends
who helped us feel seen
and sung our song back to us
when we could not hear it
with our ears alone.

Then somewhere along the way
we stumbled on it again
in the soft touch and sweet stare
of sweethearts.
Through them, love taught us to trust
and helped us discover that who we are
does not end at the barrier of our own skin.

To our surprise, love then expanded
into the fragile gift we call community.
This web of beings bathed us in belonging,
expanded our sense of home,
and called us to see the needs of others
as our own.

And when our family and friends,
lovers and comrades
let us down and broke us to bits,
it was love that put us back together.
Knowing that none of us fully mend,
love also said, It's ok limp.
I will remain beside you just the same.

That's when we first heard the strange whisper.
In the heartbreak.
Arising from somewhere deeper
than the things we can touch.
It announced itself
as a love that will not let us go,
even in our fear, even in our failure,
even when we are lonely or lost.

And when that comforting love
seemed the perfect end to the path,
the gift we could rest within
and keep as our very own,
this band of religious heretics
showed up in our lives and told us
to share it.
Born from a strange God
who loved and saved all,
they now rally around a sacred assignment
of making that larger love real, here on earth.
They talk of that love that will not let us go,
but they also ask,
"Is our loving large enough?"
They ask that of us over and over again.

And in that asking, we learned that love
can also be demanding,
often leading to the opposite of comfort.
And tough. We learned that It is that too.
Or needs to be.
Not something mean,
but something that persists.
Something within that can be beat down,
but gets back up again.
A love that calls us to never let go,
of it.



2022-23 Soul Matters Themes

The Path of...

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| February: | Love |
| March: | Vulnerability |
| April: | Resistance |
| May: | Creativity |
| June: | Delight |

February 2023 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 |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 10:30 Our Center in Motion – Carol Nimick and Randy McKean, Worship Associates | | 8:30 Tuesday Walking Group | 8:30 Men's Group | 8:30 Thursday Walking Group | 4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble | 10:00 Scrabble Club |
| 10:45 Kids' Connection | | | 10:30 Humanism Discussion Group | 7:00 Singing Meditation | | 1:00 Membership Team Meeting |
| 12:00 Nevada County Home Path Presentation | | | 6:30 Adult Choir | | | |
| 12:30 Drop-In Support Group | | | | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 10:30 Languages of Love – Beth Karow, Tracy Pepper, Worship Associates | 4:00 Stop the Mine Task Force | 8:30 Tuesday Walking Group | 8:30 Men's Group | 8:30 Thursday Walking Group | 4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble | 12:00 Imbolc Ritual |
| 10:45 Kids' Connection | | 4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting | 4:30 Ministry Council Meeting | 10:30 Writers' Group | | 3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle |
| 12:30 Drop-In Support Group | | | 6:30 Adult Choir | 2:00 Finance Committee Meeting | | |
| | | | | 6:00 Worship Team Meeting | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 10:30 – Rev. Janet Onnie | 6:00 Women's Circle | 8:30 Tuesday Walking Group | 8:30 Men's Group | 8:30 Thursday Walking Group | 4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble | 9:00 Building and Grounds Workday |
| 10:45 Kids' Connection | | | 1:30 Board of Trustees Meeting | | | |
| 12:30 Book Group | | | 5:00 Justice Team Meeting | | | |
| 12:30 Drop-In Support Group | | | 6:30 Adult Choir | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 10:30 The Superpower of a Tender Heart – Lindsay Dunckel | | 8:30 Tuesday Walking Group | 8:30 Men's Group | 8:30 Thursday Walking Group | 4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble | |
| 10:45 Kids' Connection | | 5:15 Nisenan Project Team Meeting | 6:30 Adult Choir | 10:30 Writers' Group | | |
| 12:00 Stop the Mine | | | | | | |
| 12:30 Drop-In Support Group | | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 10:30 – Rev. Janet Onnie | | 8:30 Tuesday Walking Group | 8:30 Men's Group | 8:30 Thursday Walking Group | 4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble | 1:00 Membership Team Meeting |
| 10:45 Kids' Connection | | | 10:30 Humanism Discussion Group | 7:00 Singing Meditation | | |
| 12:30 Drop-In Support Group | | | 6:30 Adult Choir | | | |



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Telephone: (530) 274-1675 Website: uugrassvalley.org

Sunday Services are held at 10:30 AM by Zoom or in person

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 January 16 through May 31, 2023.**

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

FOR PASTORAL CARE NEEDS,
please contact a member of the Lay Pastoral Care Team:
George Dunstan, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, or Tom Wernigg,
or email: laypastoralcare@uugrassvalley.org

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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(530) 274-1675

Siobhan Boylan, *Technical Support*

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:

[Article Submission Form](#)

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