

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

March 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 ...

MARCH THEME: *The Path of Vulnerability*

March 5 Daring to be Human Creatures
Rev. Karyn Packard, Guest Minister,
Cheryl Morris & Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associates

Ready to explore the pros and the cons of opening ourselves to others? Do you wonder how we face an unknown future with both hope and anxiety? And what can we control, and what requires stepping out with openness and faith? Join us as our own Rev. Karyn Packard returns and invites us to dare to be human creatures, vulnerable to the beauty of existence. Her goal? Enhanced relationships, both individually and in community.

March 12 Being a Beginner, Again
Lindsay Duncel,
with Cheryl Morris, Worship Associate

When we approach something new, we are open, curious, engaged, and, yes, vulnerable. Come explore the power of the Zen concept of Beginner's Mind and the possibilities it opens if we are willing to be beginners and release the need to be an expert

March 19 What Hurts?
Rev. Jan Onnie, with Cheryl Morris &
Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associates

Join us as Rev. Jan points the way to turn our interpersonal vulnerabilities into strengths. Much of what shapes our responses to matters large and small are unresolved hurt feelings. Sharing them

makes us vulnerable. A community of non-judgmental listeners can help us learn to trust that we will be heard, although not necessarily healed. Through this process, we can turn our vulnerability into the strength to own our scars and find common experiences with others unlike ourselves.

March 26 The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering
Rev. Jan Onnie, with Cheryl Morris &
Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associates

They say grandmothers are a vulnerable group, but what happens when they gather, one by one, to stand witness together? Join us as we turn this service into a Readers' Theater directed by Catz Foresman with an all-star UUCM cast.

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Rev. Jan Onnie
UUCM Sabbatical Minister

Reflections for Renewal Times

Centering Love in our Bylaws

In 2020, the UUA decided it was time for us to do a review of our 35-year-old bylaws and make changes so that we are living into the Unitarian Universalism of the future. The UUA Board convened a study commission, basing its charge in this framing:

The new Principles and Purposes should guide us in the transformation of ourselves, our communities and our faith into active networks of collective care, restoration, and justice.

The Principles and Purposes you will prepare should be a living document that challenges Unitarian Universalists to place the liberation, in all its dimensions, of all, at the center of our lives. ... Our commitment to anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism is love in action, and should be centered in any revision of Article II. Finally, the Principles and Purposes should lead us into the second quarter of the 21st Century, while honoring the historic roots of our liberal, progressive faith.

At our 2023 General Assembly this summer we will vote to accept or reject this version. In order to be accepted it needs a simple majority vote. If accepted there will be a year of further study, some final edits, and a final vote at the 2024 General Assembly. At that point it will need a two thirds majority to be adopted as the new Article II of the UUA bylaws.

What's different in the draft proposed words? You will not see the concept of principles in the new wording, but values. Unitarian Universalism is a religion based on shared values. But our current wording does not name values explicitly. The proposed draft wording names six specific values with corresponding actions to be taken. It centers Love as the underlying core value. None of these values are numbered like the principles. The image is circular – none is more important

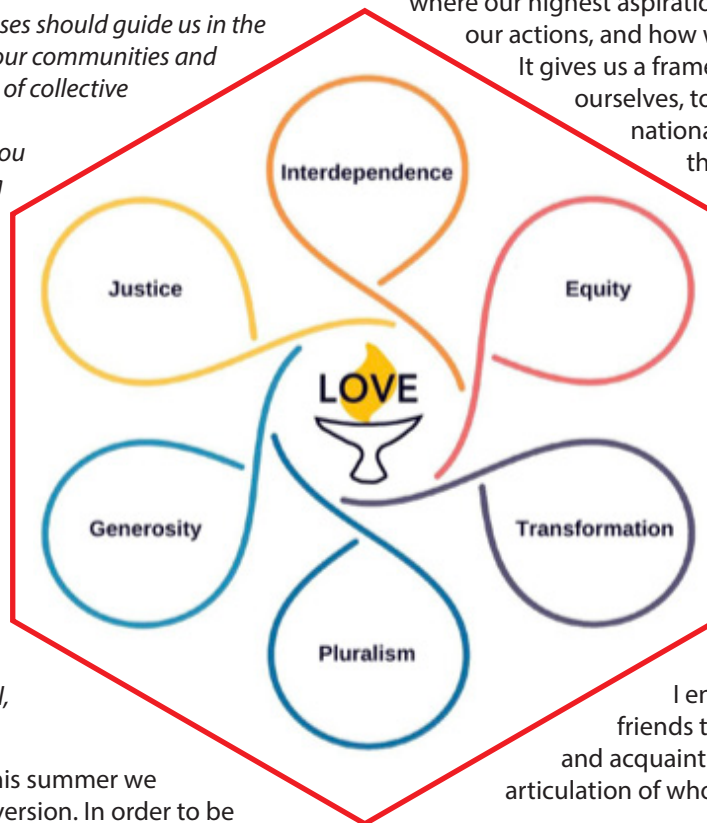
than another. Each value is expressed in three different levels—first, a word. Then a sentence to fill it out. And then a covenantal sentence that calls us into action. Where our current Article II joins us in covenant to affirm and promote seven principles and provide each other mutual trust and support, this proposed revision calls us to more specific action. The specific action is highlighted in red. (See the proposed wording on the next page, page 3.)

Love has everything to do with the bylaws of our Unitarian Universalist institutions. Our values dictate how – as individuals -- we live. So these are not just words. They not only reflect where we stand now, but, they shine a light to where our highest aspirations are. They guide our thoughts, our actions, and how we want to be in community.

It gives us a framework to be accountable – to ourselves, to each other, and to our local and national institutions. These words are the chalice that holds the flame of our free religion.

There are a number of resources and study guides available online for those wishing to learn more about this initiative. A search for Commission on Article II on www.uua.org will give you the report itself plus a number of study guides and links to YouTube videos on the subject. Opposing voices can be found at www.fifthprincipleproject.org.

I encourage UUCM members and friends to have a look at these resources and acquaint themselves with this clear articulation of who we are and what we value.



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.*

Proposed Principles and Purposes

This is the wording proposed by the Commission on Article II:

INTERDEPENDENCE

We honor the interdependent web of all existence. We covenant to cherish Earth and all being by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and **we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.**

JUSTICE

We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. **We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions.**

GENEROSITY

We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. **We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources.** Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

EQUITY

We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

TRANSFORMATION

We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically.

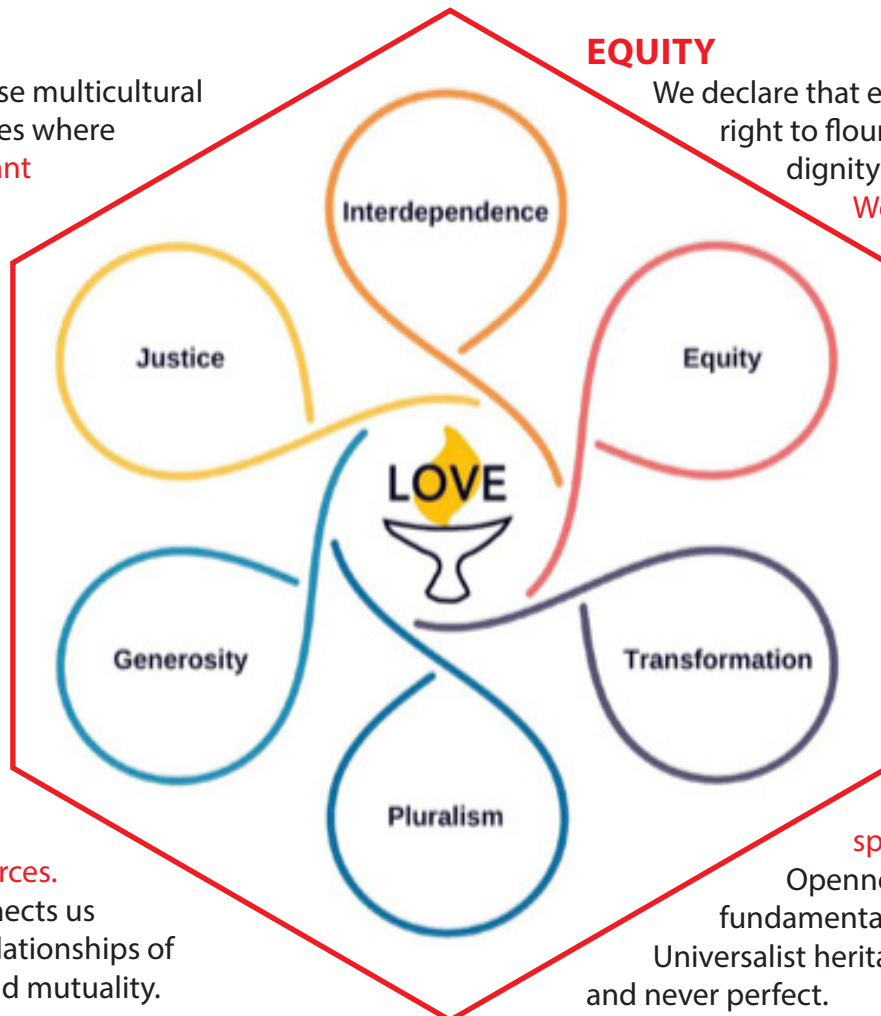
Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

PLURALISM

We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to **learn from one another** in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

We embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, and respect.





Board of Trustees

*Pam Kisor, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*
president@uugrassvalley.org

Here we are, at the beginning of our second month of Kevin's sabbatical and the sky has not fallen! In fact, we are enjoying wonderful Sunday services and the continued meetings of discussion groups, support groups, social groups, work committees, and ministry teams. Rev. Jan has been a great addition to our community, and UUCM continues to be a place of connection, support, and love. We are fortunate indeed. Fortunate to have members who care about each other, and care about our local community and the wider world. Members who continue to work together even during the absence of our minister. I love that our community has this strength of purpose and commitment. It reassures me that ours is a group we can count on, even in times of change.

And speaking of change... We are embarking on a period of deep thinking and soul searching as our community considers the possibility of a move to a new building. This is an exciting and challenging position for us to be in, one that we will explore together and decide together, with the potential for a real opportunity to test our strength as a community. I look forward to our open house tours of the Squirrel Creek property this month. Lots of discussion and soul searching are coming our way, and I am confident that our beloved community is up for the task.

In thinking of the task before us I will close with the words of Amanda Schubert, who reminds us of the value of our varied and unique approaches to change.

Namaste,

Pam

IN HONOR BY AMANDA SCHUBERT

In honor of the risk takers, those that hold the vision with clarity and charge forward with optimism even in the face of others' doubts. You are our lamp lighters and our guides; may we never forget the courage it takes to lead the way forward.

In honor of the cautious skeptics, those that gather the information needed to navigate the tumultuous waters of change. You are the map-makers and the preparers of the stores; may we appreciate your attention to the details that keep us on course.

In honor of the doubters, those that may fear the changing tides of a turbulent world. You are our anchors, and remind us of where we have been and where we are as a community now. May we relish your commitment to our history and your passion for who we have become.

In honor of the dreamers, those that imagine what we can be – to, and in, this world. You are the wind that blows the sails of change, pushing

us ever-forward; may we revel always in your whimsy and hope that dares us to never stop becoming.

May the work we do together strengthen our community and our world. May we heed the call to always hold the vision of the free church ever in our sight and to work towards justice. Together we wield a powerful spirit that is strengthened by the gifts of all.

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 Vice President, René Wiley.

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?

Unitarian Universalism calls me, again and again, to the challenge of appreciating both the good and the gnarly aspects in this Beloved Community and seeing where radical love points the way to more acceptance and equity. UUism is one path to a peaceful world.

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT ROLE AT UUCM.

Fiduciary "oversee-er," Vision-holder, Community builder

WHEN DID YOU BEGIN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

At the start of this church year, July 2022.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE BEST ABOUT FULFILLING YOUR ROLE?

I love to gather! To see a humble setting transformed into sacred space as we gather together in body, mind, and spirit. Some wearing hearts on their sleeves, all with eyes shining, we gather to widen our circle of love and care for each other and the broader community. To know the power of community.

WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST CHALLENGING ABOUT FULFILLING YOUR ROLE?

The loneliness in leadership. Others can see the fun we are having and so I don't understand why there are still open positions on the Board of Trustees. We are burning out.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU DO THAT THE CONGREGATION MIGHT NOT BE AWARE OF?

I stubbornly hold a vision for a co-minister to energize a Young Adult Ministry with all of the good vibes for LGBTQ+ and BIPOC and young families to increase the love and vitality at UUCM. Also, I often pull weeds on my way past our UUCM garden beds and around town. A little soil can regularly be brushed on my jeans and resting under my nails.

HOW DOES YOUR WORK SUPPORT THE MISSION OF UUCM?

The vision I describe requires practicing radical love which is some of the powerful work of anti-oppression and multi-culturalism. I believe that this is the future of UUCM and Unitarian Universalism. It is what our UUCM mission is hinting at.

BOARD

Spotlight



Meet René Wiley
Board Vice-President

Favorite Quote:

"Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place." ~ Zora Neal Hurston

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

The stars of the Wiley family are Maisie the Collie who has recently raised a Sammie's Friends foster kitten, and Padme the Siamese-Tabby mix who is a loving, cat-napper by day and a murderous feline prowler by night.

Steve Wiley is an incredible husband and father who believes in subscribing to newspapers and working daily crossword puzzles. He is a hard working remote

Software Developer who, among other things, loves Canadian TV comedies, playing his drums, changing the motor oil in our cars, and supporting up and coming music groups.

Ash Wiley, 14 years old, is a wonderful person who has been at UUCM since they were six. They never forget a name or a face. A rising high schooler and NU Marching Band member who will be sharpening their chops with the Nevada County Concert Band starting this Spring. They are growing their heart and mind every day and anticipating all the good things to come in the next year.

This summer and fall, our family hopes to explore the redwoods and visit the unique eco-system at Great Basin National Park. We want to invite some game nights and see where more connectivity with UUCM leads us!

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

Besides the obvious Lindsay Dunckel, Ruth Ghio, and Keith Johnson I'd pick Eleanor Roosevelt for her INFJ spirit and the sheer amount of equity work she accomplished.

IF YOU COULD PICK ONE SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Vulnerability! To feel at ease in my skin at any given time. I'm working on this.

WHAT TOP THREE TRAITS DEFINE YOU?

Kind, imaginative, conscientious

WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU CANNOT RESIST?

Homemade popcorn beurre noisette - with browned butter

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT AT UUCM?

Swimming in alpine lakes, redecorating my space, landscape planning

WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO BE? (BESIDES UUCM)

En route to my hometown when the silhouette of Mt. Diablo comes into view, in or along the Yuba River, in line for ice cream.

Continued on next page

Board Spotlight, continued...

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

I'm a lucid dreamer who can stop and start most dreams on command.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE GREATEST GAME IN HISTORY?

Rock, paper, scissors

IF YOU HAD TO EAT ONE MEAL EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Sauteed mushrooms scooped out of the pan with crusty bread and a glass of red wine. Every day. For the rest. Of my life.

IF YOU WON THE LOTTERY, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD DO WITH THE MONEY?

Go get TWO electric VW mini buses! One to serve as UUCM transport EV and one for myself.



Facilities Exploration

*Gail Schulz, Leader
Facilities Exploration Team*

Facilities Exploration Update

As you know, we continue to explore all options for our building. However, right now much of our effort is going to analyzing the possibility of relocation to a church building on Squirrel Creek Road. We are developing information on all aspects and issues relating to this property, including a concern with a deed restriction, what operating costs would be if we were to move, and what repairs or modifications would be necessary if you, the congregation, were to proceed with this property. We hope to have most of this information gathered in the next several weeks.

If these investigations are fruitful, we will then be scheduling tours for you, the decision makers, to tour the property and ask questions. We plan to schedule these tours for the third and fourth weeks in March, and will have ways to sign up to tour as soon as the dates are firm.

We are also planning another Workshop on April 1, 9:30 AM to Noon to bring you up to date on all the information we have gathered about this property, as well as what else we have seen, and financial information we have developed so far.

So, please stay tuned for further information.



Stewardship

*Maryann Currington,
Leader, Stewardship Team*

Celebrate the Mosaic that is UUCM

This is a beautiful season in our foothills. The trees are budding, grass is a verdant green, and daffodils are filling roadways with color. This is also the season for renewing our commitment to UUCM, our beloved community. It is the 2023-24 Pledge Invitation!

You will be receiving pledge documents early this month. The Stewardship Team has composed a letter to describe the wonderful "Mosaic of UUCM" and the Art & Aesthetics Team is constructing the UUCM Mosaic on the right side of our sanctuary. There is much beauty to display; our joys and values are evident in the photos you will see presented against a colorful background.

Please renew your faith and commitment with generosity. Your pledges are our only monetary support, and therefore truly essential. The mosaic that is UUCM that includes our very beloved minister, his support team, our youth and our tired but much-loved building, can only continue with our treasure.

Our pledges must be in the hands of our finance team by April 9. However, the sooner we can have every pledge in, the sooner our Finance team can begin developing our financial statement to be ready for our Congregational Business Meeting at the end of May.

With Love and Respect,

-Maryann



Membership Events

St. Paddy's Ceilidh at UUCM

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 FROM 5:00 TO 9:00 PM

Tickets on sale March 1 (see QR scan on Poster to reserve a ticket) or tickets will also be on sale on Sundays after service, March 3 and 10.

\$25 for Dinner and Entertainment
\$20 for just Entertainment
Children \$10

Traditional Irish dinner (with a vegetarian option) served from 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Entertainment - 5:00 to 9:00 PM Live Celtic music, dancing, and spoken word

Irish Pub: Beer, wine, "Irish Mules," and Irish Coffee for sale.

Volunteers: It takes a UU village to put on a Ceilidh! If you are interested in helping with the event, there are lots of fun jobs including decorating, cooking, set up, serving, clean up, and bar-tending.

Contact Shannon at CelticCeilidh2023@gmail.com

New Member News

Chalices for UUCM's Newest Members

UUCM's nine newest members have received wonderful ceramic chalices made by UUCM's own Jillian Roberts. You may have seen Jillian's amazing work in the library art show a few months ago. Rev. Kevin commissioned from Jillian a set of home chalices for UUCM's newest members, who have each had a chance to choose one, sized to hold a tealight or small votive candle. The "flaming chalice" - a flame within a chalice (a cup with a stem and foot) - has become a primary symbol of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition.

The Unitarian Universalist Association website tells the story, briefly:

Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. The service committee was then helping people to escape Nazi persecution. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the flaming chalice, including the light of reason, the warmth of community, and the flame of hope.

Read more of the UU Chalice story [HERE](#).

As our new members see and light these chalices in their homes, may they be reminded of their connection to this community, and to the larger Unitarian Universalist tradition that holds them and calls them both inward and outward.



Pictured above are the handmade ceramic chalices made by UUCM member Jillian Roberts for the latest group of new members at UUCM.

St Paddy's CEILIDH CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023

Live Music, Dancing & More 5-9 PM
Traditional Irish Dinner (Veggie Option) from 5-6 PM
\$20/Show \$25/Dinner & Show \$10/Children
IRISH PUB WITH DRINKS FOR PURCHASE!

FEATURING

... Irish Session Kick Off ...

• Three Times Through •

Celtic Breeze • Irish Songbirds • The Earbuds
Celtic Amigos • O'Carolan Trio • Kathi Keville

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains
246 South Church Street, Grass Valley

Tickets on sale March 1,
Available at UUCM March 3 & 10

For information, contact:
celticceilidh2023@gmail.com



Art and Aesthetics Team

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

The Art and Aesthetics Team met in person at the church in February. We want to welcome new member Laura Harter, who has plans to do a reception on a service Sunday for each artist who shows their work in the library art gallery. We look forward to her creative ideas in this area and for members to get to know the exhibiting artists better.

Maryanne Currington, who is coordinating this year's pledge campaign, has asked us for help doing a wall installation of photos to show congregants the value of pledging to UUCM. The team is currently working on this.

Shanti Emerson and Linda Siska continue to do the beautiful altar settings for Sunday services in conjunction with the Worship team.

The art show in the library, featuring Barbara Chesnut, will be on display until March 15, when it switches to Shanti Emerson.

We are very pleased that our calendar is filling up for the year. Two slots are still available 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.

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

- Robin

LIBRARY ART GALLERY SHOW SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Barbara Chestnut – Wall Quilts – March 1-15
Shanti Emerson – Ceramics - March 15 – May 15
Linda Siska – Art Quilts – May 15 – July 15
Lisa Haden – Art Works – July 15 – September 15

Introducing Shanti Emerson

Featured artist at our UUCM Library Art Gallery from March 15 – May 15

Already retired and in my sixties, I began doing art late in life. Why I didn't start earlier, I'm not sure except no one in my family nor my friends did art. We all loved it but considered artists a different breed of people. You either were a museum quality artist or forget it. You were Van Gogh or nobody. I wasted years that I could have enjoyed creating.

I started out at Sierra College in 2001 in an oil painting class. Working with paints and brushes and solvents was just too messy. So next, I studied ceramic sculpture and lost myself in it. I made all kinds of figures and vases. I also took fabric art classes, and they were wonderful.

After a few years, I started writing columns for The Union and working on a novel. I left the world of paintings and sculpture for penning articles,



but I missed that other world.

In the last year, I have attended weekly art classes at the library and have focused on dry felting and collage. Dry felting involves taking pieces of raw sheep's wool, putting them into shapes, and then taking a special barbed needle and punching the wool again and again until it forms a wool mat. When I get the wool felted and in the shape I want, I add more wool until it is the right size. The natural white wool can be dyed into hundreds of hues. I started out doing single figures like an owl or a butterfly but this evolved into doing a whole scene of felted figures.



I love doing art and enjoy the feeling of bringing something into the world that no one else can do. Each of us has our individual style, and it is so lovely to find it. Doing art helps us discover ourselves.



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

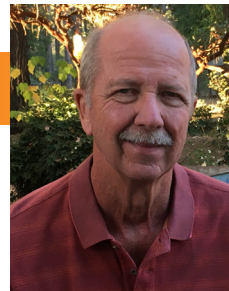
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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



B & G Team

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

Getting Stuff Done While Having Fun!

The Building & Grounds Team manages our day-to-day facility needs and goals for improvements for our church's physical environment. We seek volunteers that are willing to help us meet those needs through work parties and project development. These are individuals who like doing projects, repairs, cleaning, or working outside in gardens and yards. There are no requirements for joining, other than enjoying hands-on tasks and working with others.

Whether you are new to UUCM or have been a part of it for a while, if you would like to meet people while doing some fun and interesting things, the UUCM Building & Grounds Team is a good place to start.

-Wally

First Horse, a Profile on Corrie Silva

by Jenny Dewey

Children have an amazing ability to want something so desperately their desire never fades. With steely determination, the object-of-desire is fixed in the child's mind. As the child grows, this unquenchable hunger may, with luck, transform into a real possibility. In a word: A Dream Come True.

Corrie Silva's yearning for a horse started when she was a young girl going to "family camp" one week every summer. An amazing array of wonders were available to the children attending the camp – and plenty of amusement for the parents, too. Corrie ignored every distraction, every chance to excel in swimming, tennis, or boating. Nothing mattered to little Corrie except riding the horses.

And so began a saga of a passionate horse-lover in search of exactly the right horse.

Years passed, filled with marriage and two children, a son and a daughter. Corrie managed the office in the pre-school her children attended at San Francisco State University. She spent a dozen years working in the School of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. During this time there were no horses on Corrie's horizon.

When she and her family moved to Grass Valley, Corrie sought out a community of people akin to the neighborhood she'd known as a child: safe and openly generous. The Unitarian Universalist church answered her needs and fulfilled her expectations.

Corrie is a self-described "free spirit," an eager activist, and someone invested in volunteer work.

Not surprisingly, given her life-long yearning for a horse, Corrie found a match volunteering for Saddle Pals, an equine assisted therapy program for people with special emotional and physical needs. She was exposed to a variety of experiences with horses. Some of these experiences did not work out. Horse and rider did not bond, one with the other.

A calm, grounded, eight-year-old horse named Presley became her teacher in the ways of "horse sense." Presley was more than a horse; he was a mentor. On Presley Corrie found the ideal combination of a safe place to be, and a place to learn.

Presley died at age sixteen. His passing was gentle, even graceful. Corrie was bereft and emotionally undone by Presley's death.



Buddy, bought and paid for, the first horse truly her own, seemed a gift from Presley. It was clear to Corrie that Presley had prepared her for the full possession of what she'd wanted since childhood.

Buddy is now a trusted companion on trail rides and camping trips. He steps into a trailer without the least reluctance. His nature is predictably easygoing, as if he, too, knows where he belongs.

There is more to this story than there is space available in this profile. The best news is the little girl who didn't care about swimming, tennis, or anything besides horses, now has her first horse.

Justice News and Activities

Interfaith Food Ministry Justice Forum Sunday, March 12

Please join the Justice team and Shelby McNamara, Development Director of IFM, for a presentation and discussion after the Sunday service on March 12. Shelby will describe the latest happenings at IFM, including the ongoing volunteer opportunities and an exciting matching gift campaign, the annual IFM March Madness fundraiser – its biggest of the year! – where your support will be doubled.

Several members of the congregation who regularly volunteer at IFM will also share their experiences with us. There will be a special shout out for those members who participate in the UUCM Work Day at IFM the second Tuesday of every month.

Mark your calendars for March 12, and join us for an interesting and impactful discussion. Light refreshments will be available. This meeting will be in person and on Zoom. The Zoom link is the same as the link for the Sunday service.

If you have questions, please contact justice@uugrassvalley.org.

Share the Plate

UUCM's January Share the Plate recipient, [Sierra Roots](#), will receive \$1,224.75, thanks to generous UUCM members, friends, and visitors. These weekly donations add up! Thank you all.

As of this writing, we are currently finishing up collections for our February partner, [Community Beyond Violence](#) whose 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.



Our March Share the Plate recipient is [Interfaith Food Ministry](#). Interfaith Food Ministry is all about feeding families and fueling hope. Interfaith Food Ministry has been providing supplemental food in western Nevada County since 1987. Over those 35 years, 1,000,000

seniors, families with children, and single adults have walked through IFM's doors. Several members of our congregation volunteer regularly at IFM, including participants in the UUCM Work Day at IFM the second Tuesday of every month.

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

Bending the Arc Planning Retreat Saturday, March 11

The Bending the Arc Task Force is sponsoring a planning retreat on March 11 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at UUCM. The retreat is for everyone who wants to take small or large action toward dismantling racism and voter suppression. The retreat has three goals:

- To celebrate what worked and what we learned in our work in 2022;
- To review the critical barriers preventing racial justice in 2023;
- To craft our 2023 strategy to address these barriers.

Some initiatives to be discussed include:

- Postcarding for critical off-year elections in Virginia and Wisconsin
- Book study groups
- Service opportunities in support of local BIPOC community organizations
- Educating ourselves on multiculturalism as related to our values and principles
- Working with local school boards to eliminate racism in schools.

Please join us for this important work.

Hospitality with Justice

Café Justo

Get your coffee from the farmers who grow it via Cafe Justo, serving hand-picked coffees from small farms in Mexico, directly from the farmers and their collective. The price is unbeatable! Organic, shade-grown, sun dried:

Regular coffee	\$9 per pound or \$38 for 5 lbs.
Decaf coffee	\$10 per pound or \$43 for 5 lbs.

CHOOSE: Arabica or Robusta
Light Roast or Dark Roast
Whole Beans or Ground

Order through Julia Park Tracey at coffee@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

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

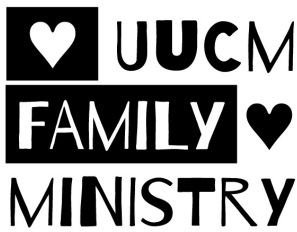
WOMEN'S CIRCLE MONTHLY POTLUCK –

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! Our next meeting is Monday, March 13. We'll have a potluck followed by games, led by Susan Merrill. First a parlor game, then pictionary! Come have fun! (See a photo from February below - Qigong was so much fun!)

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.





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

From Vulnerability to Connection

By Jo Waters, Leader, UUCM Family Ministry Team

familyministry@uugrassvalley.org

Vulnerability—we all experience it, making it a very appropriate theme for our community's work and play together during the month of March. Babies come into the world completely vulnerable, and the aged often end their lives in a state of significant vulnerability. In between, we all struggle with our vulnerabilities to different degrees and of various natures. As Brene Brown reminds us—"Staying vulnerable is a risk we have to take if we want to experience connection." Here at UUCM, we prioritize connections. Indeed, we even chose the word to be in the name of our Family Ministry program for our children, Kids Connection. With our goal of promoting deep and meaningful connections firmly in mind, may we aim to support our children, youth and each other when we are feeling vulnerable. May we walk together along paths that gently pass through our feelings of vulnerability, leading us toward fulfilling our needs for connection. And in so doing, may we build a strong, intergenerational community that is greater than the sum of its vulnerable parts.

OTHER ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH INCLUDE:

Scrabble Club

Saturday, March 11 at 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Ostara Ritual

The pagan version of Easter, Tuesday, March 21, 5:30 PM in the Alcott Room

COMING SOON:

Brunch Bunch, for youth 12 and older. Beginning in April, a once a month after service walk to a nearby eatery for the purpose of conversation and connection.

Tour the facilities of a possible new location for UUCM TBD—3 dates in March, one of which will be designated for families.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

- **Kids' Connection** will be available every Sunday in March.
- **Sunday, March 19** is Lindsay Dunckel's **All Ages Service** which is called: ***Being a Beginner, Again***

Sunday Book Group

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

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

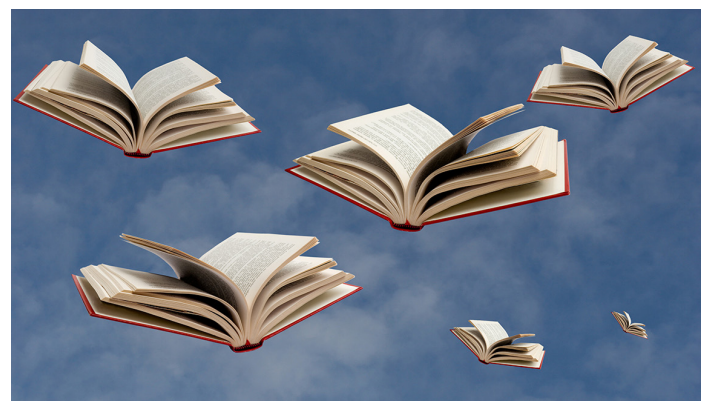
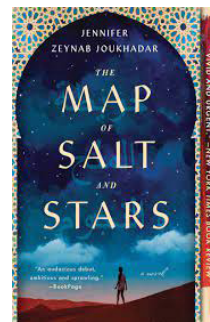
The ancient, sometimes mystical connection between maps, people, and knowledge is central to this first novel by Zoukhadar. It is a double tale of voyage and exile that moves between contemporary war-torn Syria and the caravansaries and khans of the past. Maps are mentioned on almost every page: not 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/92711118322?pwd=c2w5M0VoMEdvKzVLQkIFUzJ3S2Zndz09>

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322
Passcode: 472984





Soul Matters: Welcome to the Path of Vulnerability

*It may be that when we
no longer know what to do
we have come to our real work,
and that when we no longer
know which way to go
we have come to our real journey.
The mind that is not baffled
is not employed.*

*The impeded stream is the
one that sings.*

~ Wendell Berry

This month is a tricky one for us UUs. Let's be honest. Berry's celebration of vulnerability and limits is just not our thing. We are, after all, the religion of human potential, goodness and power! We don't sing at impeded streams; we break through them. We don't put up with confused minds; we keep at it until we become un-baffled. When we no longer know what to do, we just turn to each other and figure it out together.

There is something deeply inspiring about viewing ourselves so capable and strong. But there's a shadow side too. In pursuit of being our best and most powerful selves, we often fear leaning into vulnerability. It becomes a problem. The thing we need to protect ourselves from.

But it is a protection that betrays.

Theologian C.S. Lewis gets at this in his reflection on the vulnerability of love:

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to keep it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change.

It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable."

In other words, there's a big difference between breaking and being broken open. Yes, leaning into vulnerability is frightening. But often, it also unlocks a door, allowing grace to drift in.

For instance, a loved one dies, and, to our surprise, our hearts aren't just crushed, they are cracked open, illuminating beauty just a little more clearly. The absence we thought would haunt us, actually unveils how deeply we loved, and how lucky we are to have loved.

Or what about when we're finally honest about the fears and burdens we hide? In that leap of courage, we discover that telling our truths doesn't just make us feel weak or exposed; it opens our eyes. We become able to see that others hide their pain and fear, too. And with that, the faceless crowd becomes a sea of fellow travelers. All of us connected. All of us aware how much kindness is needed, even when the other's pain is not easy to see.

It's all about understanding that vulnerability isn't weakness but a softer form of strength.

Remembering that isn't easy. But it is necessary. It's maybe our most real work, as our friend Wendell Berry would say.



2022-23 Soul Matters Themes

The Path of...

March:	Vulnerability
April:	Resistance
May:	Creativity
June:	Delight

March 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
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
10:30 What's Love Got to Do With It? – Rev. Jan 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		4:00 Let's celebrate UUCM – a Good Trouble Congregation	10:30 Humanism Discussion Group	7:00 Singing Meditation		
12:30 Drop-In Support Group			6:30 Adult Choir			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30 Daring to Be Human Creatures – Rev. Karyn Packard	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	9:30 Bending the Arc Task Force Planning Retreat
10:45 Kids' Connection		4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting	4:30 Ministry Council Meeting	10:30 Writers' Group		1:00 Scrabble Club
12:30 Drop-In Support Group			6:30 Adult Choir	2:00 Finance Committee Meeting		3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle
				6:00 Worship Team Meeting		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30 Being a Beginner, Again – Lindsay Duncel	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			5:00 St. Paddy's Ceilidh at UUCM
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 What Hurts? – Rev. Jan Onnie		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 UU 101						
12:30 Drop-In Support Group						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10:30 The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering – Rev. Jan Onnie		8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	8:30 Men's Group	8:30 Thursday Walking Group	4:15 UUCM Strings Ensemble	9:30 Facilities Exploration Workshop
10:45 Kids' Connection			6:30 Adult Choir			1:00 Membership Team Meeting
12:30 Drop-In Support Group						



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 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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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*