

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

April 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 9 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

### APRIL THEME: *The Path of Resistance*

**April 2**      **Song of Resistance**  
Emma's Revolution, with Carol Nimick,  
Worship Associate

*There's gonna be a revolution! Let's get fired up with special guest Emma's Revolution for a musical service designed to inspire action inwardly and outwardly. Known for fearless, truth-telling lyrics and melodies you can't resist singing, Emma's Revolution is the dynamic, award-winning activist duo of Pat Humphries and Sandy O.*

**April 9**      **We Don't Know What Happened**  
Rev. Jan Onnie, with Gracie Kendrick and  
Carol Nimick, Worship Associates

*The Flower Communion is a Unitarian Universalist tradition to celebrate Easter and the arrival of spring. We will bring flowers to share among ourselves, with friends and neighbors and even strangers as we hear the story of the Flower Communion's founder, Norbert Capek, and consider the ambiguity surrounding this Christian holiday.*

**April 16**      **The Artists Are Here to Disturb the Peace**  
Revolutionary Jé Hooper, MPS., MA., D.Min., Ph.D.,  
with Tracy Pepper and Gail Johnson Vaughan,  
Worship Associates

*James Baldwin said in a 1961 interview, "The artists are here to disturb the peace." This small phrase came at an opportune time, predating the Black Power Movement. Guest speaker Dr. Jé Hooper will explore with us two questions: where are the activist artists*

*("artists") today? and how do we curate unrest for positive change? For more on Dr. Hooper's philosophy, see page 8, and plan to attend this stimulating service!*

**April 23**      **David v Biandrata,**  
Rev. Janet Onnie, with Cheryl Morris,  
Worship Associate

*Our tradition has a history of people resisting the dogma of their times. The story of Ferenc David and Georgio Biandrata rivals the best of courtroom dramas. The verdict resonates today with the struggle over the fate of the Rosia Montana gold mines in Romania – the same part of the world where David was martyred.*

**April 30**      **Todos Iguales / All Equal (All Ages Service)**  
Lindsay Dunckel, Service Leader

*Have you heard the saying "We are the people we have been waiting for?" Come hear the story of the Mexican-American families in Lemon ...Continued on page 8*

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## Reflections for Renewal Times

Rev. Jan Onnie  
UUCM Sabbatical Minister

### Turtle Crossing

I was barreling along one of our busier roads, late for an appointment as happens too often these days. As also happens these days my mind wasn't on the road or the traffic. So I was startled (and grateful for good brakes!) when everyone in front of me screeched to a stop. The traffic coming toward me was also at a standstill. I couldn't immediately see any reason for it until I noticed a person in the middle of the road hunched over doing some sort of shuffling dance.

I have not had kind thoughts about my fellow Augusta County residents. The dysfunction of the Historical Commission and intransigence of the County Commissioners over the confederate flag issue has made me slightly crazed. The letters to the editor denouncing any attempt to curb gun violence added fuel to the fire. Last week's comments by the County Sheriff pushed me over the edge. So I was not surprised to see what appeared to be a deranged citizen dancing in the middle of a busy county road.

My disgust turned to shame when I saw what was happening. A huge turtle was trying to cross the road. It was obviously disoriented.

I have been a fan of turtles for quite a number of years. When I first met my spouse he had a small turtle named Oscar. Through a number of moves – including one requiring that Oscar have his health certificates in order – the turtle went with us. One move involved packing up from snowy Pittsburgh to a new job in Bermuda. Oscar made the trip in Nelson's pocket. Unfortunately, though, he couldn't survive the change in the climate. He never came out of hibernation and, while Nelson was on a trip, Oscar drowned in his tank. I have always felt this was my fault. So I have been known to become slightly crazed about protecting turtles.

Apparently I wasn't alone in this protective instinct. The man had used his truck and his body to block traffic both ways to

herd the turtle safely across the road. After several attempts to point the turtle in the right direction and keep it moving that way, he finally picked it up and carried it to safety. People in all sorts of vehicles with all sorts of decals – including the confederate flag – cheered and honked. I don't know how many of them had guns under their passenger seats, but I'll bet it was a lot. In that moment I didn't care.

What I cared about was how quick I was to judge The Other. Here was an individual living out his respect for the interdependent web of life at no small risk to himself. And a whole bunch of people unlike me were appreciating his efforts. I hope no one begrudged the few minutes they were late to wherever they were going. I hope the turtle universe took note of this inter-species kindness. And I really hope the turtle rescuer is spared from having to deal with judgmental people like me.

As I went on my way I still didn't pay much attention to the traffic. Instead I was wondering if there was a turtle in a meadow somewhere bearing witness to the warming earth and the rebirth of the flowers.

– Rev. Jan



### REV. JAN'S OFFICE HOURS

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

Contact Rev. Jan at [revjanet@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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.



## Board of Trustees

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

April is fast approaching, and I find myself feeling a bit overwhelmed. Each month seems busier than the last, and I am beginning to have the feeling that I am falling behind - and definitely out of balance!

Today has been a particularly long day dealing with UUCM operations. It is now 7:30 PM, I have not had dinner, and I still need to write my Mountain Chalice article! (Such are the joys of being the Board president.) In looking for inspiration at this late hour, I came across a writing about being a Unitarian Universalist that perfectly captures why I do this work and why each of us gives so much to our community. This seems especially apropos given that we are currently in the midst of our pledge campaign and putting together the slate for our upcoming Board elections. I hope you don't mind my including another's writing in lieu of my article, and I hope you enjoy this little gem as much as I do.

### ***We are the People Who Choose,***

So I'm in Istanbul, in the marketplace, adrift in the covered bazaar and, insanely, I'm trying to blend in. I'm amidst tables of figs, flip flops, saffron, carpets, apple tea, and hookahs. I'm walking past booth after booth of pistachios, evil eyes, satellite dishes, Islamic holy books, Bart Simpson t-shirts, brass trays, and harem girl outfits. Harem girl outfits. And the fellow in the harem outfit booth looks at me for a split second and says in perfect English: "It is your destiny." This particular sales pitch did not work. At least to date, I have not put my name on the harem girl sign-up sheet, regardless of my destiny. I laughed out loud and there, in the Turkish covered bazaar, experienced a moment of perfect clarity. I am a Unitarian Universalist, and we are people who choose. And that, my friends, is the point. You are choosing your religion, and what you're going to believe about god, and good and evil, and justice, and what you think they mean. You are choosing how you handle death, how you're going to change the world, how you're going to connect with the cosmos, and how you're going to get through the day. It's your religion, and your church.

It's your church, and maybe you like rocking babies in the Nursery, or you like designing shelves, or you'd just like to try; you're a natural born leader or you'd like to test your wings at chairing a committee. You're a bit of a ham or terrified of public speaking, either way it's your church,

## 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

*Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month.*

*If you wish to address the board, please give at least two days notice so the agenda timing can be adjusted.*

your vision, it's all within your power. You are choosing your faith.

Whether you are chatty or mute, analytical or artistic, you with your personal finances bar graphed on your computer, you who feel at home in the kitchen, you who have a wealth of intuition, you whose watch beeps on the hour, you who wonder what day it is, you whose socks don't match, you are welcome here because, after all, this is your church and you know this is good stuff.

You know what you want from church. You've made your decisions, you know what counts in your life, you know what you like. Why else would you fill out a pledge card, guiltfree and happily? You have your own reasons to celebrate. You know where you are headed. And whether you're looking for peace and harmony, or wholeness, or a more just world, you've arrived. And whether you want to teach the children a sense of their inherent worth, or that their faith and lives are one, or a love for the adventures of life, you're here together. You've arrived. And whether you're looking for a community of love, or a sense of transcendence, healing or comfort, here you are together. You've arrived.

*- by Jane Ranney Rzepka  
(from Bless the Imperfect)*

May it be so.

Namaste, *Pam*



## Stewardship

Maryann Currington,  
Leader, Stewardship Team

### Every Piece of our Mosaic Matters

We are in the countdown of our 2023-2024 Pledge Campaign! Our Finance Committee will develop the UUCM budget for our 2023-2024 fiscal year from the final tally of your pledges. If yours is sitting on your desk, now is the time to decide your pledge, sign it, and put it in the mail.

Our congregation has "weathered the storms" literally and figuratively. After two years of Covid shutdown, we finally had the opportunity to congregate when winter storms created more obstacles! The resilience of our Worship Team and our wonderful AV support never let anything stop us.

Our Stewardship Team feels we have a need to celebrate! We are planning a UUCM Celebration Picnic! Plan to meet Sunday, April 30 at the Nevada City Fairgrounds, Pine Cottage. There will be food, drinks, music, games, and lots of laughter! Look for sign-up sheets in the church lobby.

If your last year's (2022-2023) pledge has an outstanding balance, remember that our fiscal year ends June 30, and your pledge commitment must be satisfied by that time. If you are making a payment by check toward your 2022-23 pledge, please indicate that on your check. If you are paying online and need assistance, please contact [Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org) and if you need a pledge form contact [Stewardship@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Stewardship@uugrassvalley.org)

With Love and Respect,  
-Maryann



## Ways to Give to UUCM

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

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

## Membership Team

Laura Harter and Kate Canan, Co-Leaders,  
Membership Team  
[membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org)

### Want to Learn More About UUCM and Get Connected? Try UU 101

#### 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 – 2:00 PM on the third Sundays of each month: 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.



## Parish Care

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

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

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

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

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



### PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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

*Shoveling snow isn't  
USUALLY one of the  
outdoor B & G jobs...*



## Lay Pastoral Care Team

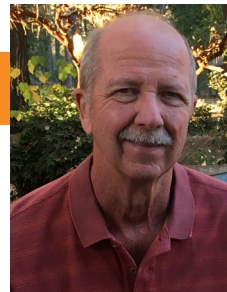
### Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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](mailto:laypastoralcare@uugrassvalley.org)



## B & G Team

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

## UUCM Member Profile

### *An Extraordinary, Ordinary Life*

A Profile of Cheryl Morris by Jenny Dewey

Cheryl Morris was born into a mainstream, middle-class family in Southern California and raised as a solid, middle-class child. She attended a Methodist church with no mention of Heaven, Hell, or Damnation. She married at "an appropriate age," and lived happily for fifty years with her engineer husband. Recently widowed, she passed through many stages of grief during the height of the Covid crisis.

Now we know her as a contributing member of UUCM. This, on the surface and at a glance, is Cheryl's life.

Cheryl is a recent member of UUCM. She jumped in with both feet, joining the Worship Team, along with other teams and task forces, busily running the shows behind the scenes.

Below the surface of this shy, unassuming person is a woman who has spent many years connecting with populations of undervalued, disenfranchised people. Her professional title is "Clinical Social Worker." When I interviewed Cheryl, we shared stories of how teenage girls of "our era" were expected to be librarians, nurses, or social workers.

Cheryl's official title does nothing to impart any sense of brilliance or accomplishment. Digging deeper, one learns the true depths of her life work.

"I worked with incarcerated adult men...with delinquent teenagers." Cheryl says, "You have to be who you are to make a connection." She found it a challenge to work with adult men who had experienced "terrible lives and

...have no reason to trust a middle-class white woman." Reaching out and touching lives was a challenge and, in Cheryl's words, "rewarding."

Cheryl described a prison population of ten thousand served by one psychiatrist and four social workers. Realizing this gave Cheryl an added sense of purpose. Coming from a seemingly bland background, and suffering no trauma herself, gave Cheryl added determination to make connections.

As a dedicated researcher likely to have made a gifted librarian, Cheryl is more comfortable in the background than the foreground. Certain members, Gail Johnson-Vaughan in particular, have urged Cheryl to become more involved and more visible.

Our UUCM community is composed of a diverse population. Some members never seem to appear, although they are always there. Others are well known for the work they do and when they go missing, alarm bells ring.

Cheryl Morris will always be the quiet one, but this aspect of her personality must never be taken as a complete picture. Once one comes to know her the so-called ordinariness of her life dissolves. A thoughtful, caring, and extraordinary person emerges.



# Justice News and Activities

## Justice Team Update

At the March 15 Justice Team meeting, the team had a lively discussion concerning the present state of justice-making at UUCM. This type of inquiry is essential since the team's mission is to create a viable, congregationally based justice program at UUCM.

We have decided that the Justice Nights and Justice Luncheons will be put on hold. Instead, we will look for other ways to promote, facilitate, and organize justice within our congregation. One idea is to spend more time identifying specific justice opportunities and encouraging member participation in these tasks rather than hosting justice presentations. Another idea is to work with other UUCM teams and committees to make sure that justice is at the forefront of our thinking regardless of the lines on the organizational chart.

What justice possibilities do you see for yourself and our congregation? How can the Justice Team help you accomplish your objectives in order to fulfill our mutual mission? We look forward to hearing from you and your ideas about how to make justice work in our beloved community.

For more information, contact [justice@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:justice@uugrassvalley.org).

## Share the Plate

UUCM's February Share the Plate recipient, [Community Beyond Violence](#), will receive \$785.00, 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 March partner, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#).



Our April Share the Plate recipient is [Nevada County Citizens for Choice](#). Citizens for Choice promotes reproductive justice through education, healthcare access, and advocacy. With the repeal of Roe, Citizens for Choice stands with those who protect and support a person's right to choose and will continue to provide and advocate for reproductive healthcare.

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

## Bending the Arc Task Force Retreat Re-Scheduled

The Bending the Arc Task Force is sponsoring a planning retreat on Saturday, April 8 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at UUCM. The retreat is open to everyone who wants to take small or large action toward dismantling racism and voter suppression.

### THE RETREAT HAS THREE GOALS:

- celebrate what worked and what we learned in the course of our work in 2022;
- review the critical barriers preventing racial justice in 2023;
- 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.

The Task Force had a very successful year in 2022 and wants to continue that work. The retreat will help us determine if we have sufficient people power to continue the task force at all, and if so, how many and which initiatives will be carried out.



Please join us for this important work. For further information contact [Jimperkins@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Jimperkins@uugrassvalley.org).

### Interfaith Food Ministry Update

Anne Lyon spoke with Development Director, Shelby, who says that although **April is Volunteer Month**, IFM has no luncheon for volunteers scheduled. There WILL be a lunch for drivers only; probably because they're finally getting their new truck, and they will show it off!

March saw the opening of IFM's **2023 Matching Campaign**, and it has been extended to **April 15**. During the campaign, all donations will be doubled.

On **Monday, April 10, Northridge of Nevada City** is hosting a fundraiser to benefit IFM from 5:00 to 8:30 PM. The restaurant will donate 10% of all sales on dine in or take out!

Looking ahead: **Shredding Day will be held on Saturday, May 20**, at Owens Estate and Wealth Strategies Group, 426 Sutton Way, Suite 110, Grass Valley from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Suggested donation is \$10.00 per box or bag. Everything is shredded on site.

For more information, contact [justice@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:justice@uugrassvalley.org).



### Gleaning for IFM - A chance to put your muscle where your heart is!!

Become a volunteer with **Gold Country Gleaners**! Gold Country Gleaners could be viewed as a sort of "dating organization." Its goal is to match up thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste every year, with the hundreds of local families that are experiencing tough times and could use the food.

Gleaners deliver food to the Interfaith Food Ministry, and all of this is happening right here in our back yards and local farms and orchards.

To find out more visit [www.sierraharvest.org](http://www.sierraharvest.org) or talk to Claire Miller.

*Continued from page 1...*

*Grove, California who fought an attempt to create a segregated school for their children in the early 1900s. Their courageous acts of resistance underpin the rights of schoolchildren in California today. Come gain some inspiration to step into our role as the people we have been waiting for.*



### BIOGRAPHY OF JÉ EXODUS HOOPER, OUR APRIL 16 SPEAKER

Jé Exodus Hooper (they/them) is an art and cultural community curator, minister, and scholar who has served the Ethical Culture and Congregational Humanist Movements for over eight years while teaching performance theory at Ohio University School of Theater.

A passionate activist aesthete, ethicist, and community-based performer, Hooper identifies themselves within the Humanist spectrum as a "neo-mannerist." The term neo-mannerist was inspired by the artistic work of Ernie Barnes, a Black American artist, whose work was displayed on a 1970s television sitcom entitled "Good Times." Specifically, by centering voices on the margins beyond conventional Humanism—such as reason, logic, science, and rationale without a God—Dr. Hooper calls us to be in wonder with ourselves and the world around us, honoring that there is more to know and understand about ourselves and each other.

Dr. Hooper does not shy away from topics of discomfort, dysfunction, and disorder that have disproportionately restricted those on the margin who seek to cultivate social elegance in an obscure technical sophistication of aliveness, one that the traditional status quo cannot imagine. Decolonizing the mind requires a skill of word-working and/or love language, in which folk-talk illuminates collective freedom through embodiment, intuition, imagination, and improvisation. Power is traded for purpose, privilege is exchanged for personality, and prejudice exudes into pleasure.

Dr. Hooper observes the art of living as a human necessity where they must interpolate new material of being and existence. Their most authentic work is not limited to the confines of the academy, institutions, and/or religious façades. They are most alive as a griot of digital spaces, an "artist" of studios and stages, a public theologian of dance-hall or clubs, and a provocateur of the preaching body, where they hold space for their siblings of all kinds. Dr. Hooper dares their audience to "take off the mask" courageously as Baldwin explains, and furthermore be a cultural archetype of "quest and daring and growth" that others may find a home in our humanity. This kind of trans-aesthetic and trans-disciplinary approach consoles and agitates communities by re-imaging and re-claiming narratives that honor the inherited worth and dignity within all people – a he[art] work that Jé is committed to!

# Community Connections – Online & In Person

## Staying Connected

### WEEKLY @ UUCM

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

### SUNDAY SERVICES - 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON

*Please do not attend in person if you are feeling unwell or have had a COVID exposure. Masks not required, but recommended for those at high risk for illness. Should CDC guidelines change or Nevada County's infection rates increase, our attendance/mask policy may also change.*



### SUNDAY DROP-IN

#### SUPPORT CIRCLE - 12:30 PM

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](mailto:Walking@uugrassvalley.org) for info.

### MEN'S GROUPS

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



### HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

#### FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:30 AM

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

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

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

### SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

#### FIRST THURSDAYS, 7:00 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM

Contact [SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org)

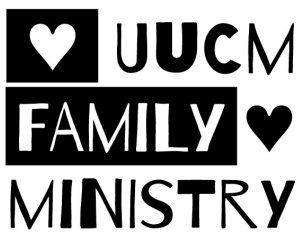
### WOMEN'S GROUP MONTHLY POTLUCK –

#### SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM

All UUCM women (and friends!) are invited to any Women's Group gathering. Come make connections with other UUCM women!

Our next meeting is Monday, April 10 at UUCM. We'll have a potluck followed by Women's Wisdom – plan to share a life experience that taught you some wisdom you'd like to pass on. We've done this in the past and it was very moving and connecting.

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



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

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



## To Fly We Have To Have Resistance

By Cheryl Spaulding,  
UUCM Family Ministry

To be honest, April's theme of resistance caught me by surprise. Lately, I have been working on acceptance, being open to what is instead of hoping for something better. But after a few minutes of reflection, I understood completely that some things must be resisted: bigotry, ecological destruction, violence - I could go on and on. So, I am no longer surprised by April's focus on the theme of resistance. Clearly, the issue of resistance is not as simple as resistance vs. acceptance. Rather, it is a complex and layered construct. Understanding this complexity has more to do with understanding what to resist, when to resist, how to resist, even why to resist than it does with whether or not to resist.

Helping our children and youth understand what resistance is and what it looks like in practical action is a first step in becoming ethical and effective resisters in the contexts where they live, work, and play. As Maya Lin, the architect-designer of the Viet Nam War Memorial in Washington D.C., reminds us, "To fly we have to have resistance." We are all committed to supporting our children and youth as they soar into their future lives. To that end we must guide them as they build up their understanding of and ability to resist in ways that are consistent with our UU values and principles.

### ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH INCLUDE:

#### Easter Sunday Service & Flower Communion, April 9:

For more information about the history of the flower communion, see <https://www.uua.org/worship/lab/flower-ceremony-centennial>.

#### Brunch Bunch Sunday, April 23:

Meet in foyer after the service (approximately 11:45 AM).

Preteens and teens (11 and up) walk to local sandwich shop to eat, talk and get to know each other. Forward questions about this event to [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org).

#### Sunday, April 30, All Ages Service:

Lindsay Dunckel presents "Todos Iguales/All Equal" in a service designed for all ages to enjoy.

*Kids' Connection* will be available every Sunday in April.

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

**NOTE: This month only, we'll meet on the first Sunday.**

#### April 2 - *Klara and the Sun*,

by Kazuo Ishiguro

In this novel the author looks at our rapidly changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, an Artificial Friend, Klara, to explore the fundamental question, "What does it mean to love?" Presenter: Theresa Houtman

#### May 14 - *The Invisible Child*,

by Andrea Elliott, 2021, 520 pages

New York Times journalist Andrea Elliott immerses herself in the life of a New York family suffering from poverty, homelessness, drug addiction, and despair. The invisible child is Dasani, a talented girl who wins a scholarship to an elite school in Pennsylvania, which presents a fundamental conflict between her ambitions and her loyalty to her family. This book won a Pulitzer. Presenter: Keith Johnson

Our book group is always open! Join us to delve into any book that piques your interest as often as you wish. We meet for an hour or so. You are welcome to bring your lunch; several of us meet in the Channing room prior to the meeting to eat our lunch, or you may eat during our discussion.

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, or want to order your books ahead, you can find that issue on our UUCM Website: [www.UUGrassValley.org](http://www.UUGrassValley.org)

#### Zoom Link:

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

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984



## *Soul Matters: Welcome to the Path of Vulnerability*

*...it starts when you say We  
and know who you mean, and  
each day you mean one more.  
~ Marge Piercy  
from The Low Road*

Out of all our themes this year,  
resistance is among the most  
complex. But it also may be the most  
simple.

Let's start with the complexity.

Sometimes resistance involves bravely picking up  
a picket sign; other times it asks us to courageously  
put down our masks and expose who we really are.  
Sometimes it involves defeating the enemy; other times  
it's a matter of noticing that treating them as the enemy  
defeats us all.

Often the path of resistance asks us to stay in it for the  
long haul, but just as often it's about taking that first tiny  
step. Most of the time it requires us to fight to the bitter  
end, and yet there are many moments when we need to  
stop resisting and let go.

Resistance certainly takes the form of speaking the truth  
to power, but often what the world needs even more is  
for us to speak the truth in love.

Bottom line: the path of resistance is tricky business and  
takes multiple, even contradictory, forms.

But beyond this complexity lies the simplicity of Marge  
Piercy's words. In all cases, she reminds us, the path of  
resistance starts when we say "We!" For instance, the  
power of our picket sign resides in the fact that it hangs  
alongside those of others. Being who we are usually

begins with another loving us for who we are. Both  
the long haul and our first courageous step are made  
possible by reaching out to receive a helping hand.

It's all one big reminder that none of us resist alone.

Or maybe what really needs to be said this month is that  
none of us have to resist alone. Each and every path of  
resistance is daunting. But they are made even more  
daunting when we tell ourselves that we must travel  
those paths by ourselves.

So, yes, we certainly need pushed and prodded this  
month. But maybe what we need most is to be reassured.  
Reassured that - when the road gets too treacherous,  
when the forces against us grow too big, others will be  
by our side. Maybe it's not more courage that is required,  
but more connection. Maybe what we really need to  
hear is not simply "Resist!" but "I will resist with you!" and  
"Let's start with 'WE!'"

Maybe it is as simple as that.



## *2022-23 Soul Matters Themes*

### *The Path of...*

April:	Resistance
May:	Creativity
June:	Delight

# April 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 <b>10:30</b> The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering – Rev. Jan Onnie <b>10:45</b> Kids' Connection <b>12:30</b> Drop-In Support Group	27	28 <b>8:30</b> Tuesday Walking Group	29 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group  <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	30 <b>8:30</b> Thursday Walking Group	31 <b>4:15</b> UUCM Strings Ensemble	1 <b>1:00</b> Membership Team Meeting
2 <b>10:30</b> Emmas's Revolution..  <b>10:45</b> Kids' Connection <b>12:30</b> Book Group  <b>12:30</b> Drop-In Support Group	3 <b>4:00</b> Stop the Mine Task Force	4 <b>8:30</b> Tuesday Walking Group  <b>4:00</b> Parish Care Team Meeting	5 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group  <b>10:30</b> Humanism Discussion Group <b>12:00</b> Meet the Minister Tea <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	6 <b>8:30</b> Thursday Walking Group  <b>7:00</b> Singing Meditation	7 <b>4:15</b> UUCM Strings Ensemble	8 <b>9:30</b> Bending the Arc task force retreat <b>3:00</b> Spirituality Sharing Circle
9 <b>10:30</b> We Don't Know What Happened – Rev. Jan Onnie <b>10:45</b> Kids' Connection <b>12:30</b> Drop-In Support Group	10 <b>6:00</b> Women's Circle	11 <b>8:30</b> Tuesday Walking Group	12 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group  <b>4:30</b> Ministry Council Meeting <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	13 <b>8:30</b> Thursday Walking Group  <b>10:30</b> Writers' Group <b>2:00</b> Finance Committee Meeting <b>6:00</b> Worship Team Meeting	14 <b>4:15</b> UUCM Strings Ensemble	15 <b>9:00</b> Building and Grounds Workday
16 <b>10:30</b> The Artists Are Here to Disturb the Peace – Revolutionary Jé Hooper, MPS., MA., D.Min., & PhD <b>10:45</b> Kids' Connection <b>12:00</b> UU 101  <b>12:30</b> Drop-In Support Group	17 <b>5:30</b> Meet the Minister	18 <b>8:30</b> Tuesday Walking Group	19 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group  <b>1:30</b> Board of Trustees Meeting <b>5:00</b> Justice Team Meeting <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	20 <b>8:30</b> Thursday Walking Group	21 <b>4:15</b> UUCM Strings Ensemble	22
23 <b>10:30</b> David v Biandratá – Rev. Jan Onnie <b>10:45</b> Kids' Connection <b>12:30</b> Drop-In Support Group	24	25 <b>8:30</b> Tuesday Walking Group	26 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group  <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	27 <b>8:30</b> Thursday Walking Group  <b>10:30</b> Writers' Group	28 <b>4:15</b> UUCM Strings Ensemble	29
30 <b>10:30</b> Todos Iguales / All Equal – Lindsay Dunckel <b>10:45</b> Kids' Connection <b>12:30</b> Drop-In Support Group	1 <b>4:00</b> Stop the Mine Task Force	2 <b>8:30</b> Tuesday Walking Group  <b>4:00</b> Parish Care Team Meeting	3 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group  <b>10:30</b> Humanism Discussion Group <b>12:00</b> Meet the Minister Tea <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	4 <b>8:30</b> Thursday Walking Group  <b>7:00</b> Singing Meditation	5 <b>4:15</b> UUCM Strings Ensemble	6 <b>1:00</b> Membership Team Meeting



## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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

**Sunday Services are held at 10:30 AM by Zoom or 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](mailto: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](mailto:laypastoralcare@uugrassvalley.org)

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS	E-MAIL ADDRESSES	TELEPHONE
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Siobhan Boylan, <i>Technical Support</i>		

**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*