

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

July 2023

## UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are at 10:30 AM in person  
and via Zoom.

*If you are feeling unwell or have been exposed to COVID,  
please attend online.*

TO JOIN THE ZOOM SERVICE AT 10:30 AM ON SUNDAYS:

Online via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/746107217>

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

Audio by phone: Dial in: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

... See Page 12 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

### SUMMER WORSHIP THEME: Love in Action

Dr. Cornel West has so eloquently stated, "justice is what love looks like in public." The worship theme for this summer's Sunday services is Love in Action, directly inspired by the revisions of Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) currently being considered. The theme of Love in Action provides us with a lens to explore what these revisions might feel like.

Many of us have asked "why the change?" As one member of UUA's Article II Study Commission put it, "we need more verbs." The existing Article II's Seven Principles are an individualistic set of ethics and theology. The new language integrates the Seven Principles into a set of values organized around an aspirational goal of doing. Centered in a shared value of love, this goal reaffirms our commitment to personal, institutional, and cultural change and roots that change in practices of anti-oppression, anti-racism, and multiculturalism.

This summer, we immerse ourselves in love-centered values and the possibility of living them into being.

**July 2**      **Freedom, Reason, Hope & Courage**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa & Randy McKean

As Unitarian Universalists, we are rooted in heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage. This July 4 weekend, when we need each of those heritages more than ever, we launch our summer

series focused on Love in Action with Rev. Kevin's current take on what it means to be Unitarian Universalist, as viewed through the lenses of his recent renewal leave inner journey.

**July 9**      **Love is the Power**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa & Lindsay Dunckel

At the center of the values that are proposed as the anchors of Unitarian Universalism is Love. Love is the power that holds us together and through the spiritual discipline of Love, we hold one another accountable in doing the work of living our shared values. Come explore what this means in our daily living and in how we are together and in the world.

**July 16**      **Ever Willing:**  
**Becoming the People our World Needs**  
UUA General Assembly service with Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti; Carol Nimick & Gracie Kendrick, Worship Associates

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

After the gift of substantial time for deep self-care and renewal this spring, I'm feeling two kinds of fire season as summer arrives: yes, the usual fire season worries in these northern foothills, coupled as they are with the potent "world on fire" worries chronicled in a million newscasts and podcasts, but also a much more welcome internal fire, a "fire in the belly," as they say. This second fire is a quieter burn, but exciting in the best ways. I feel it for myself and for this community.

My sense is that we are just now reaching the first inner wall of a post-2020 "what has always been." Despite all of our intellectual awareness that it could not be so, and our naming that it could not be so, we've essentially been able to hold onto the reassuring illusion that we could return to what we knew, to what was before, as if we ourselves had not been changing and changed irrevocably. This first wall, of what I expect will be several thresholds, is an initial, felt-in-our-bones, "Nope, that's not working anymore."

To my surprise, I'm encouraged by this. Changes in how we feel, what we expect, how we want to spend our time and resources – and similar changes in others – are forcing us to reconsider, reevaluate, reprioritize, let go, and experiment. Most importantly, they are calling us to better align our thinking and our action with our deepest selves and our deepest values. Or maybe that's just me.

No. On the table these days: what "church" or "community" looks like; how this congregation's existence and mission is funded; when and how this community meets and what we do when we do meet; how complex our processes and structures are; what families with young children need; how many hours we devote to this venture and why; what we are seeking in being part of this community...

Reaching this post-2020 "Nope, that's not working anymore" wall asks us to look more carefully and more deeply into the heart of who we are and how and where we are journeying. For me this is exciting. It forces a move into new ways of seeing and being, and from thought to action.

I've committed to spend June listening and feeling out where UUCM is here after sabbatical/renewal, to listening and feeling out where I am here after sabbatical/renewal, and to looking for what UUCM and I have each learned, before I launch into any big plans. The summer fire seasons then offer a chance

to imagine and plan for the new "church" year. As we look in that direction, I share with you my first take-aways from my experience of sabbatical renewal, the list I made for my report to the Board before talking to anyone from UUCM.

- *I return meaningfully renewed, these spacious months and experiences having fed many parts of me deeply. Ahhhhh.....*
- *I return committed to weave more of what "Ah's" me into my day-to-day, week-to-week, season-to-season life and ministry.*
- *I return committed to focus first on being present and in relationship, if I can, before getting focused on doing - to ask myself first not what I need to do, but how I want to be.*
- *I return committed to learning to live and minister from my truest, most authentic self – the me beneath layers of habit, unhelpful accommodating, people pleasing, nimble over-functioning, and once-adaptive avoidances of discomfort and conflict, the me that better knows what I feel, think, want, and need, as distinct from what others feel, think, want, and need. (Not likely to be a smooth, graceful, or easy ride, but this is the personal work at hand.)*
- *I return with a desire to simplify. Most everything. If possible.*
- *I return inspired to help UUCM anchor itself truly and deeply in a foundational religious commitment to help people realize their most true, most whole selves, aware that all the rest follows from this.*
- *I return ready to connect and listen, wanting to know what UUCM leaders, members and friends have explored, discovered, learned, and realized in these past 4.5 months, in their personal journeys and in the journey of this UU community. Ready to hold on to and to share my own vision and discoveries, too, as I do so.*
- *I return committed to be kind and compassionate toward, but not to be reactively driven by, urgency and anxiousness, aware that clarity about many of the next "to do's" will arise out of our conversations and interactions.*
- *I return committed to take time to breathe, in general, but especially immediately upon return.*
- *I return with a very grateful and ready heart.*

Here's to the best kinds of fires in the belly, and what they mean as well as where they might guide us.

With care

– Rev. Kevin



## Board of Trustees

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

### Faithfully Becoming a Beloved Community – Where do we begin?

July marks the start of the church year, and as your new President of the Board of Trustees, I'm thinking about new beginnings.

Attending the UUA's 62nd annual General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA last week was wonderfully exciting and informative. As a voting delegate on behalf of UUCM, I affirmed to continue the conversation on the proposed Article II Amendment which places love at the core of our shared values. It was gratifying to vote for continuing that work since originally voting to affirm the commission back in 2020! We belong to a faith tradition that uses democracy to enact change for anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism. In other words, more love! Some of you got involved in contributing to the amendment process this year, thank you. Check out more Article II details here: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

For me, GA is about making new friends and discovering how to transform ourselves, our communities, and our faith into active networks of collective care, restoration, and justice. As I learn more about opportunities to deepen these commitments to our shared UU values, I sense the urgency of our Unitarian Universalist role in creating liberation and joy. GA is about faithfully becoming a Beloved Community, and how to bring that home.

So, where do we begin? First, let's remember together the sabbatical learning from last year: slow down, and listen. For our part, the Board promises to review goals and keep things simple. Among our goals will be to align, where we can, Governance and Ministry partnerships for simplifying policy and communications. This year, too, there will be an emphasis on UUCM community conversations that serve to guide us forward. We will reflect together on open questions such as: Who do we want to be? Who will be welcomed, and how will they know? I trust that these transformative conversations will foster the collective care, restoration and justice that is so needed for ourselves and our community partners. I welcome a transformation that will invite us to live our mission more fully.

Last month, my family took a much-needed, foggy, coastal vacation at the Mendocino Headlands. We found that the extra seasonal rainfall encouraged a dense meadow of shoulder-height wildflowers and tall purple grass plumes on the Mendocino bluff. The sight was amazingly gorgeous! To stand on the path was to be immersed in nature. During sunset walks to the beach, an intense pink glow guided us along the pathway over the bluff. With bats zooming above and the surf crashing below, we moved delicately through the grasses and flowers, wending our way through the meadow. The journey along the path was sensorially transformative and was as good as, or even better than, arriving at the beach.



Chances are that our journey ahead will be beautifully bumpy and sometimes wildly adventurous. Trusting the path of Beloved Community, we will proceed slowly and respectfully, listening to discover what Love is calling us to do.

*This is where we begin, with gratitude and love,*

*– René*

## UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023**

René Wiley	President
Pam Kisor	Vice-President
Gail Schultz	Treasurer
Janet Dunstan	Secretary

### **Members at Large:**

Chuck Champlin, Jeff Gold & 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.*

# Membership Team

Laura Harter, Leader, Membership Team  
[membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org)

## Musings from the Membership Team

The Membership Team is looking for your input! We also have some events and dates to share.

We are: Kate Canan, Shannon Dooley-Miller, Ruth Edwards, Laura Harter, Theresa Houtman, and Beth Rose. Each of us has a different role in helping newcomers and seasoned members connect and explore UU and UUCM.

We are here to support you - from greeting on Sundays, offering up snacks, coordinating and organizing events, offering UU101/Starting Point, and encouraging group activities. Of course, we can't do this without you! Please let us know if you have any suggestions, requests, questions, or if you want to help.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUMMER CAMPING - AUGUST 18 - 20

You can still join this summer's camping trip at Eureka/Plumas State Park. Folks are also welcome to go glamping style and stay in a hotel or resort in nearby Graeagle and come join us at the campground for activities, cookouts and campfires. Please contact Shannon Dooley-Miller at [shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org)

### FALL ACTIVITIES

*In September*, we want to cook up some Circle Supper potlucks or other informal, easy drop-in gatherings. Expect fun and easy! Would you like to host or attend either? Let us know your interest.

### Fall Festival in October

We're just starting to plan -- music, food, and fun activities! This is a great way to collaborate -- please reach out if you or your team have ideas.

### NEW UU101 AND STARTING POINT CLASSES

We are in the planning process with Reverend Kevin to schedule our next classes. Email us if you are interested in attending or want to learn more.

### WINTER AND SPRING EVENTS

We have nothing planned yet and are game for your ideas. Is there something you've always wanted us to do as a community? Here's your chance to shine!

## WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOUR JOURNEY AT UUCM

Please let us know how we might assist your exploration of UU and UUCM.

## WE INVITE YOU TO REACH OUT

Consider becoming a greeter or usher, host a Circle Suppers, help with refreshments, or bring us your ideas. It's a great way to meet new people!

You can email us with your questions, ideas, and offer your volunteer support at [membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org)

## Upcoming Services

*Continued from page 1...*

*The pandemic has wrought change and created uncertainty for institutions, like our Unitarian Universalist congregations, and our wider world. Who and what are we becoming, individually and collectively? The 2023 "GA" Sunday service explores these themes to celebrate the best of who we UUs are.*

**July 23**

### ***Never Complete, Never Perfect***

Cheryl Morris & Carol Nimick, Worship Associates

*Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect. In what ways are we seeking to grow as individuals and as a community? How can we transform our ideals into action, for the benefit of all?*

**July 30**

### ***Fences and Defenses***

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Tracy Pepper, Worship Associate

*We UU's declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. It's just that the resources and the barriers to such flourishing are not equally distributed. So what? And now what?*







Kathryn Young  
Endowment Committee  
[endowment@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:endowment@uugrassvalley.org)

## Endowment Committee

### Endowment is Back!

The UUCM Endowment Committee is back...! Those of you who attended the May Business Meeting may remember Gail Schulz' mention of how close we are to having \$50,000 in our Endowment Fund (a milestone amount that allows UUCM to begin to make use of the money as needed) . . . and that it was a committee with no members. This inspired three people to step up – Joel Houtman, the experienced and competent past Endowment Chair, ex-UUCM President Jim Perkins, and me, someone far less experienced in the area of church finance, but interested and willing to find out more! Joel wants me to chair, but he's going to have to hold my hand for a while.

The Endowment Committee is charged with keeping UUCM vibrant and vital long into the future. There are two primary ways to make contributions to the UUCM Endowment Fund: Planned Legacy Gifts and Simple Gifts.

### ENDOWMENT LEGACY PROGRAM

If you want to make sure UUCM is strong and healthy long after you are gone, setting up a planned gift is the best option. These gifts can be written into your will or trust, or you can modify your various funds (IRA, life insurance policies, stock portfolios, etc.) to make UUCM a beneficiary. You can choose a percentage of the account, or a specific dollar amount to give. Adding UUCM as a beneficiary can be arranged easily, without a lawyer - usually just a phone call. If you want to set up a planned Legacy Gift, the Committee members are ready to show you how it can be done. Of course, each of these Legacy gifts will come in over time, and will help keep the Fund growing, even as earnings are used for UUCM programs and/or facilities.

### SIMPLE GIFTS – A PROGRAM FOR ANYTIME GIVING

Simple Gifts are a way to contribute smaller amounts to the Endowment Fund right now for any reason that inspires you. You can make a Simple Gift to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, engagement, child dedication, or any other occasion. You can give a Simple Gift as a memorial to a lost loved one, or out of gratitude to someone who means a lot to you.

It's easy to make a Simple Gift. If you are at UUCM, pick up a Simple Gift Form and envelope; fill out the short form to let us know about your gift, put your check made out to UUCM

Endowment Fund (or cash) into the envelope, and drop it in the offering basket. You can also put a check in the mail to UUCM with "Endowment - Simple Gifts" on the memo line. The gifts will be acknowledged in the Mt Chalice unless you wish otherwise. Simple Gifts are tax deductible.

Speaking of Simple Gifts, one of our Founders, Anita Wald-Tuttle, has been giving a dollar for each year of her life on her birthday every year for a while. This year, her gift was mentioned in the UUCM Connect conversation and a lot of other folks jumped on board, promising to give a dollar for each of their years on their birthdays, as well! Some even matched or added to Anita's \$96 gift in honor of Anita! It's been pretty fun. At this rate, it should not take long to reach the \$50,000 goal -- we have less than \$3,000 to go!



The Endowment Committee would like to extend our gratitude to the following people for their generous Simple Gifts – all honoring birthdays in June:!

Anita Wald-Tuttle kicked it off with \$96 for her amazing life,  
Jim Bair generously matched Anita's \$96 gift,  
Joel and Theresa each gave \$10 extra to honor Anita,  
Carol Kuczora gave \$85 for her 85 years on the planet,  
and Kathryn Young gave \$65 for her 65 years so far.

**...a total of \$362 dollars collected in June!  
(Please keep it coming!!)**

The Endowment Committee would like to encourage members and friends to help sustain UUCM as a vibrant and vital force for liberal religion for generations to come by making a Legacy Gift, if you can, or Simple Gift of any amount, whenever the spirit moves you! Please contact us at: [endowment@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:endowment@uugrassvalley.org) with your questions!



## 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



## Lay Pastoral Care Team

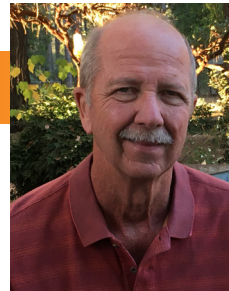
### Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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*



## Art and Aesthetics Team

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

The Art and Aesthetics Team met in person at the church in June. The Aesthetics Team is now meeting every other month, so there was no meeting in May, however Phil Horning helped install Linda Siska's show in the library gallery for its May 15 opening. Laura Harter held an opening reception for Linda last month on May 21.

To go along with the theme of Creativity, Robin Hart and the Worship Team did a special showing of Robin's Seven Moons Video, surrounded by all seven of her quilts hung over the altar area on the same day.

We had two submissions for the UUCM mural contest: Jenny Dewey and Anita Wald Tuttle. Both designs were wonderful, but we will use Jenny's concept as the main design, with elements from Anita's entry added to the final design. We are now in the production phase of the project and will coat the 6' x 9' canvas with gesso and blow up the outline of the design with a digital projector.

We will get volunteer help from congregants and RE kids to paint the mural. The mural will be displayed in the back yard during the summer months since it is too expensive for a permit from the City of Grass Valley to paint it on the garage wall.

### LIBRARY ART GALLERY SHOW SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Linda Siska – Art Quilts – now – July 15

Lisa Haden – Art works – July 15 – September 15

Rene Weilman – Paintings – September 15 – November 15

Ruth Ghio – Art Works – November 15 – January 15, 2024

If you want to display art in the library contact us at: [art@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:art@uugrassvalley.org). We have filled all the slots for this year and are looking for new artists for 2024.

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

*- Robin*

## Meet Lisa Haden



*Featured  
artist at  
our UUCM  
Library Art  
Gallery from  
July 15  
through  
September  
15*

*"Most of this art is from a creative time in my life when I was able to spend a great deal of time moving about in nature. I found all the myriad forms and colors delightful and felt inspired to integrate them and play with them. I love all the niches of the Sierra Nevada ecosystem; the rich earthy colors and all of the formal adaptations to its intense conditions. It is inspiring to live here and I hope this art reflects that."*

- Lisa





# John Tobias Thomas-Rose – “Toby”

A Profile by Jenny Dewey

UUCM has a new music director, and he is as ideally suited to his job as anyone could be.

Toby describes his family as “a family of musical culture.” His mother is a singer. His father made sure Toby and his brothers had a solid background in piano. The family often sang together, at home or in a variety of choirs.

Not until the 8th grade did Toby realize the piano was his instrument of choice and his passion. Prior to this time, he and his brothers took weekly music lessons. The lessons were integral to the musically focused family and “routine.” A serious dedication to the piano emerged when Toby was selected as first runner-up in a music competition at school.

The cliché, “Practice makes perfect,” has relevance here. To be as good as he can be on the piano, Toby devotes many hours to practice. He is eager to learn as much as he possibly can, and doing so requires many hours of dedication. Toby knows the steps necessary to reach his goals. Success, he says, is based on hard work, to “learning as much as possible.”

Participating in classical music festivals is another essential ingredient for reaching the levels of ability Toby cares about. There will be auditions, competitions, and performances where individual skills are assessed. With a goal of attending graduate school, these auditions are crucial and require, again, many hours of preparation.

When he feels unprepared for an audition Toby postpones it until he knows he is ready. He has a clear head as to the extent

of his abilities, and makes decisions accordingly.

At present, along with performing locally and acting as UUCM’s music director, Toby teaches piano to children aged

six and up. He describes his teenaged students as needing technical experience, and he likes the challenge.

And what about working with Rev. Kevin Tarsa, the original “music man?” Not surprisingly, there is an easy relationship between the two. Kevin has his ideas about what music is selected, and listens to Toby’s ideas, and a consensus is reached. As Toby puts it, “Kevin is great to work with.”

Toby sees himself attending graduate school. In his world this means master classes with the best musicians, some of whom are based in Europe, specifically Poland and Germany. It is crucial to seek out the very best and immerse oneself in learning from them. Master classes are held in the United States, as well as abroad.



*Toby Thomas-Rose, our new Music Director at UUCM!*

Toby is young and filled with energy for becoming the best musician he can possibly be, according to his own personal standards. He knows the path to success in his chosen profession, and his determination is most evident in the way he structures his life.

A promise of things to come!



### Help us welcome our Haitian family!

*By Steve Temple, UUCM Justice Team*

The Justice Team - Steve Temple, Leisa Huyck, and Rev. Kevin - has some very exciting news: we are bringing a young Haitian family to Grass Valley!

Steve and Leisa have known this young couple, Nazaire St. Fort and Moustapha Andou, for ten years, through our shared work in rebuilding Haiti's agricultural education system after the 2010 earthquake. Nazaire and Moustapha have two little boys, Jean Daniel, 8, and Samuel, age 4. Steve is godfather to Jean Daniel.

Both Nazaire and Moustapha are agricultural extensionists by training. Nazaire has come to the U.S. for two short periods to get advanced training, taking his new skills back to Haiti to help rebuild his country.

For the past three years, the situation in Haiti has been so unstable and violent that neither Nazaire nor Moustapha has been able to leave their apartment in Port-au-Prince to go work in the countryside. When we speak to them on the phone, we often hear gunshots in the background. We have occasionally had to send money so they would be able to buy food. The boys cannot attend school nor play outside due to the dangers of kidnapping, and Moustapha can't go out because of the danger of rape as well as kidnapping. For all this time, we have been exploring possible avenues for bringing them to the U.S. until Haiti is more stable. In January, the Biden administration opened a "Humanitarian Parole" program that admits 30,000 Haitians per month to the U.S. for a parole period of up to two years. We submitted the paperwork and learned just two weeks ago that Moustapha and the boys have been cleared for travel! They will arrive on July 18! Nazaire is still waiting to hear, but we have every expectation that he will also be cleared.

In the meantime...we need help! They will need everything! Moustapha and the boys will live at Steve and Leisa's house in a (mostly) separate apartment we are setting up, and until we can all figure out what their next steps might be. They hope eventually to move to a place where there is more ethnic diversity, and possibly even other Haitians, but for now they are coming here.

We hope all of you will help make them welcome, not only emotionally and spiritually, but also materially. We have some furnishings for their apartment—two beds and two couches—but that's it! They and we will need money to purchase supplies, pay for things like medical and dental care, buy a used vehicle to transport them around in (we only have our tiny electric car), and much more. They and we can certainly use donations of kitchen items like dishware, small appliances like small microwave, blender, toaster oven, etc. New or used toys, games, art supplies, and all things for 4- and 8-year-olds will also be needed, as will PLAYMATES! Steve and Leisa are of grandparent age and so are not plugged into the local family scene; we welcome suggestions for things young kids can do in the area to meet other kids and families.

We are setting up a fund to which people can donate money, as well as a wish list for needed items and a place to drop them off. (Donations

would be tax-deductible because they would be made to the church.) We may also have a work day or two to help us get everything set up. We have less than four weeks to go until they arrive!

We know our UUCM community will come together to help welcome this Haitian family into our midst. We look forward to introducing them to you. Thank you!



***Moustapha Andou and Nazaire St. Fort, with their sons, Jean Daniel, 8 and Samuel, 4.***

## Justice News and Activities

### Join the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade in Grass Valley

The Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is taking part in this year's July 4th Parade. We invite you all to join us. Come and show your enthusiasm for actions to help our climate! CCL will be promoting four pillars of corrective action:



**Citizens' Climate** Lobby

1. Healthy Forests
2. Carbon Fee and Dividend
3. Permitting Reform
4. Electrification

We have the float almost ready. We ask you to come on down and join our group in the parade to demonstrate community support for this type of legislation.

Contact Bob Miller ([climate@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:climate@uugrassvalley.org)) for further information and instruction.

### Share the Plate

UUCM's May Share the Plate recipient, [Child Advocates of Nevada County](#), will receive \$792.79, 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 June partner, [Kare Crisis Nursery](#).



Our July Share the Plate recipient is [Color Me Human](#).

The mission of Color Me Human is to celebrate, elevate, and advocate to create a safe and equitable world for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and LGBTQ+ folks. Led by a multi-racial, multi-cultural team, Color Me Human supports the under-resourced

communities in California's second whitest county. UUCM member Tracy Pepper is the Executive Director and founder of Color Me Human, and Rev. Kevin serves on its Board.

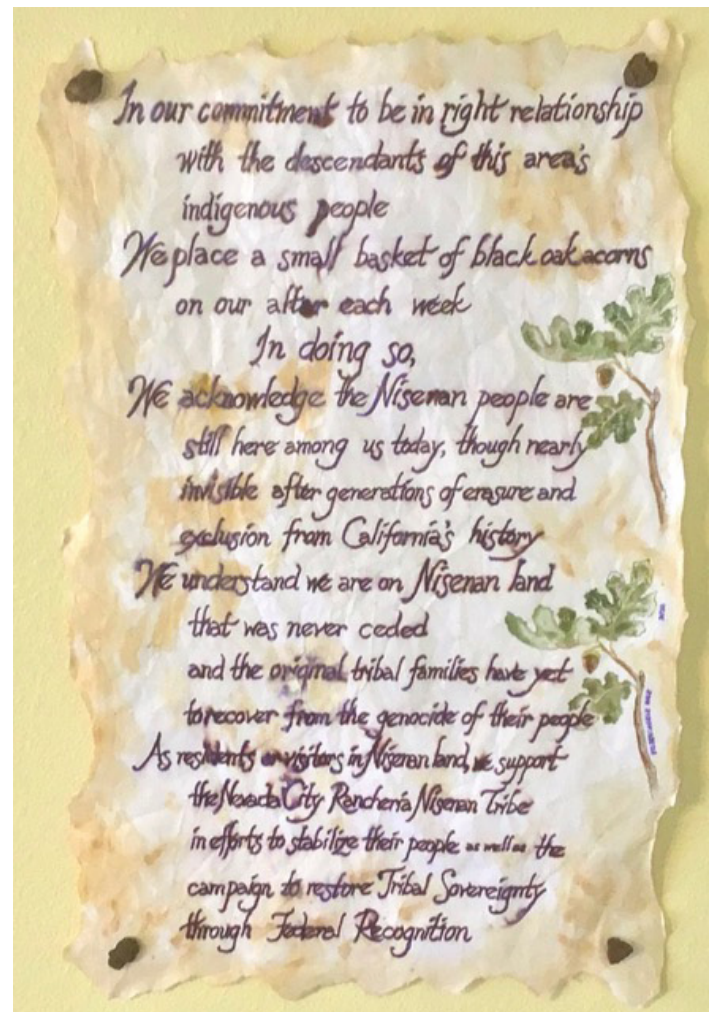
*Thank you, each of you, for your continual compassion- and justice-centered generosity.*



### IFM (Interfaith Food Ministry) Volunteer BBQ Potluck

IFM's **Volunteer Barbecues** are on Wednesday, July 5 and Thursday, July 6. This event is open to all volunteers and people who might like to learn more about IFM. The BBQs run from 2:00 - 4:00 PM both days.

IFM staff will be grilling hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken. We will also be supplying drinks. Volunteers are asked to bring side dishes to share.





# 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 - 12:00 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 - SUMMER STROLLS

With the warmer weather and longer days, our walking group now meets at **8:00 AM**. We meet on **Thursdays** at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley, and on **Tuesdays** at the Wolf Creek Trail. Be sure to ask our Administrative Assistant to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can be informed of last minute changes.

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

### MEN'S GROUP

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



### HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

### FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM

Our UUCM Humanism Discussion Group is a gathering for both those who identify as humanists and those who are interested in learning about this philosophy. We gather to explore humanism and how it relates to the various aspects of our lives in today's world while encouraging self-exploration as well as relationship with the group.

Subjects for group discussion are chosen by members and optional readings on the subjects are made available prior to the discussion. The topic for our next meeting on Wednesday, July 5 at 10:45 AM at UUCM will be a presentation from the American Humanist Association celebrating World Humanist Day (June 21). The talk by Sarah Bakewell, author of *Humanly Possible* will explore the many inspiring figures who put rational inquiry, cultural richness, freedom of thought and a sense of hope at the heart of their lives. Come join us for this presentation and the ensuing 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](#)

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, July 10 and will NOT be at UUCM or a Potluck!** We plan to go see a movie at the Onyx together! We'll send out more details to the Women's Group email list a week ahead of the meeting. If you are not on the Women's Group email list, please send an email to our Administrative Assistant, Siobhan Boylan, 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.



## Kids Connection – Summer Mode

By Cheryl Spaulding,  
 UUCM Family Ministry Team Member

There is important news from the Family Ministry Team this month. Big changes are coming our way. We want to acknowledge the work of two very important people on our team, as they prepare to step away to explore and develop other aspects of their interesting lives. First, Jo Waters will be stepping away from the team to enjoy many of her other interests here at UUCM and in her life more generally. Her exit leaves us with the important task of filling the role she so competently and generously played as Team Leader. Personally, I am grateful that Jo was in the position of Team Leader when I joined the Family Ministry Team earlier this year. She guided me into the Family Ministry Team endeavors in a kind and supportive manner that made me feel welcome and gave me room to define my own ways of contributing to the group. Her leadership will be missed.

In addition to Jo, our talented and much beloved Kids Connection teacher, Aiden McCarthy, will end his service at the end of June in order to devote more time to his primary job and his varied interests. Without Aiden assuming the lead teacher role each Sunday, we will revert to our staffing pattern before Aiden joined us. Each Sunday, Kids Connection will be staffed by one of the Family Ministry Team members (Lindsay Dunckel, Cheryl Spaulding, Rene Wiley) and a second person from the community. If you would like to volunteer to be the second teacher on a given Sunday in July or August, please contact a member of the Family Ministry team. Volunteering in Kids Connection is its own special version of UUCM joy in which most anyone and everyone can participate.

On the topic of Kids Connection this summer, beginning Sunday, July 2, and running through August 27, we will offer our special summer program entitled “Can Do Summer.” This program “aims to instill in our children the ‘can do spirit’ and the ability to face challenges that occur in life with an open mind and flexibility.” Some of the “can do” activities slated for this summer’s Kids Connection meetings include Fairy Houses, Paper Airplanes, Blanket Forts (Who doesn’t love blanket forts?), Junk Sculpture, and Toothpick Architecture.

We hope to see your children this summer so that we can spend some quality time with them making paper airplanes, junk sculpture, or toothpick architecture inside of blanket forts for some would-be fairies. It should be fun!

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

**CAN DO SUMMER—KIDS CONNECTION,**  
**SUNDAYS, JULY 2 - AUGUST 27**

We will meet upstairs every Sunday during the summer. We look forward to seeing you and your children as we head into the warm and sometimes low-key months ahead of us!

**UUCM CAMPING TRIP, AUGUST 18-20:**

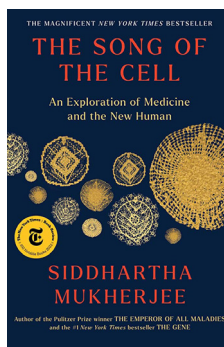
To be held at Plumas Eureka State Park. It’s not too late to join the trip. Forward questions to Beth Rose at [membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org) or Shannon at [shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org).

## 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)

Our summer reads will be the two books listed below. **We’re taking a break in August and have removed the August selection from our list.** An opportunity to delve into books for September and October! (*Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver and *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.)



**Sunday July 9, *The Song of the Cell***  
 by Siddhartha Mukherjee, 2022, 496 pg

In this highly reviewed book, Mukherjee, a Pulitzer Prize winner, tells the story of how scientists discovered cells, began to understand them, and are now using them to create new humans. He seduces you with writing so vivid, lucid, and suspenseful that complex science becomes thrilling.

Presenter Joel Houtman

• • • • •

**Zoom Link:**

[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

**Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322**

**Passcode: 472984**

# July 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
25 <b>10:30</b> A Tapestry of Delight <b>10:45</b> Kids' Connection <b>12:00</b> Drop-In Support Group	26	27 <b>8:00</b> Tuesday Walking Group	28 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	29	30 <b>4:15</b> UUCM String Ensemble	1
2 <b>10:30</b> Freedom, Reason, Hope, and Courage	3 <b>4:00</b> Stop the Mine Task Force	4 <b>8:00</b> Tuesday Walking Group	5 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group <b>10:45</b> Humanism Discussion Group <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	6 <b>8:00</b> Thursday Walking Group <b>7:00</b> Singing Meditation	7 <b>4:15</b> UUCM String Ensemble	8 <b>3:00</b> Spirituality Sharing Circle
9 <b>10:30</b> Love is the Power <b>12:30</b> Book Group	10 <b>6:00</b> Women's Circle	11 <b>8:00</b> Tuesday Walking Group <b>6:00</b> Bending the Arc Taskforce	12 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group <b>4:30</b> Ministry Council Meeting <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	13 <b>8:00</b> Thursday Walking Group <b>9:30</b> Men's Circle of Trust <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 String Ensemble	15 <b>9:00</b> Building and Grounds Workday
16 <b>10:30</b> Ever Willing: Becoming the People Our World Needs <b>12:30</b> Family Ministry Monthly Meeting	17	18 <b>8:00</b> Tuesday Walking Group  <b>5:15</b> Nisenan Project Team Meeting	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>8:00</b> Thursday Walking Group  <b>10:00</b> Greeter Meeting	21 <b>4:15</b> UUCM String Ensemble	22
23 <b>10:30</b> Never Complete, Never Perfect	24	25 <b>8:00</b> Tuesday Walking Group	26 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	27 <b>8:00</b> Thursday Walking Group <b>10:30</b> Writers' Group	28 <b>4:15</b> UUCM String Ensemble	29
30 <b>10:30</b> Fences & Defenses	31	1 <b>8:00</b> Tuesday Walking Group	2 <b>8:30</b> Men's Group <b>10:45</b> Humanism Discussion Group <b>6:30</b> Adult Choir	3 <b>8:00</b> Thursday Walking Group <b>7:00</b> Singing Meditation	4 <b>4:15</b> UUCM String Ensemble	5



## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: [uugrassvalley.org](http://uugrassvalley.org)

**Sunday Services are held at 10:30 AM by Zoom or on-site**

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

*(Our Administrative Assistant is available by phone or email until 5:00 PM, M-F)*

**Rev. Kevin Tarsa Office Hours:**

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

Contact Rev. Kevin at (231) 883-1058 or [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

### UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Siobhan Boylan,  
*Administrative Assistant*

Toby Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

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

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

### TELEPHONE

(530) 274-1661

(530) 274-1675

(530) 274-1675

**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