

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

August 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.

**August 6 From You I Receive, To You I Give**  
Lindsay Dunckel, Worship Associate

Come "dig" into the value of Generosity, one of the cycles of life that sustains us and our community.

**August 13 Love in Public: Not Either Or**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
and Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

Some members feel that UUCM is too focused on justice and not attentive enough to members' spiritual needs nor to interpersonal connection. Others, with equal conviction, feel that UUCM is too focused on spiritual needs and interpersonal connection and is not interested enough in justice.

Both sets of real and valid needs suggest that what's missing among us is a deeply felt sense and meaningfully held awareness that spirituality, interconnection, and justice are fully intertwined. "Politics and religion don't mix," so the warning goes, though in fact they are very much bound up with one another.

You will find the August 20 - September 3 Service Descriptions on Page 4...

## ► INSIDE THIS ISSUE ◀

Item	Page
Upcoming Services .....	1 & 4
From the Minister .....	2
Board of Trustees .....	3
Musings from the Membership Team .....	4
Treasurer Notes .....	5
Endowment Committee .....	5
Parish & Lay Pastoral Care Teams .....	6
Building & Grounds Team .....	6
Art & Aesthetics.....	7
Special: Profile of Ruth Edwards.....	8
Justice News and Activities.....	9-10
Share the Plate .....	10
Community Connections .....	11
UUCM Family Ministry .....	12
First Sunday Book Group .....	12
Monthly Calendar.....	13
UUCM Contact Info and Office Hours .....	14



Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

### REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS

*Currently held by appointment.*

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

### *Inward and Outward. And so, onward!*

Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul Minnesota years ago dug in to explore what they were about, at heart, as a church. As I remember it, they discerned then that religious community ideally calls us both inward and outward – inward to internal soul searching, integrity, and acceptance (inner spiritual work that cultivates our wholeness), and outward to connection, empathy, compassion, and care (outreach, justice, equity, and making a difference in the world).

We need to be called in both directions, they concluded, in varying ratios at any given moment or part of the journey, to be sure, but definitely both. In fact, the inner work enables skillful, sustained, and courageous outer work; the outward-facing work strengthens and grows our inner wholeness and integrity.

And they further realized that our UU tradition and the ways that we live it ideally call us inward and outward not only as individuals, but also as an entire community.

At our best, they found, we move and help each other to move and grow in all four directions over time. More than ever before in my 35 years of UU life, I am right now feeling a pull toward all four directions at once:

*I'm feeling the powerful need for UUCM to help people reach inward toward true personal spiritual depth and courage, to cultivate sustained and sustaining spiritual practices that help us to be present, to know and understand and accept who we are, and so to be liberated into living our most authentic and expansive selves.*

*I'm feeling the powerful need for UUCM to call people's authentic and courageous selves outward, toward engagement, connection, mutual support, and the well-*

*being of all beyond UUCM. The rising realities of the world and the nation are converging, sweeping us to a threshold that we ignore to our personal spiritual detriment.*

*I'm feeling the powerful need for UUCM to look inward as a community, even as it casts a glance outward, to clarify and center itself anew in why UUCM exists and the essential purposes it is meant to fulfill.*

*And I'm feeling the powerful need for UUCM to focus its pooled energies outward through a few key, potent, specific, and strategic efforts, to act together with compassion, courage, and love toward tangible, real-life, right-sized possibilities of greater equity, sustainability, and justice in our neighborhood, community, or world. The rising realities of the world and the nation are converging, sweeping us to a threshold that we ignore to our collective detriment.*

I said I feel the pull in all four directions, true, AND...the above order is intentional, on my part. Each direction draws upon the gifts and benefits of the previous direction, I believe. So, even as we invest energy in the other three important directions, I'll be devoting some concerted attention this year to support personal, spiritual development opportunities for members and friends. For me, this is what grounds and enables and sustains all the rest.

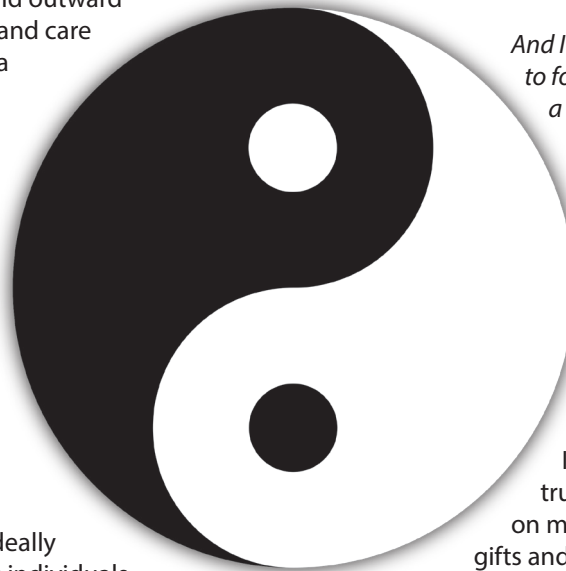
Watch for invitations soon to facilitate or to take part in such opportunities throughout the year.

I'm curious about which direction calls most immediately to you? It's a variation on the question, "What are you seeking in being part of UUCM?" To be called inward, yourself? To be called outward, yourself? To be called inward, together? To be called outward, together?

We need them all, my friends, in time. We need them all.

With care,

– Rev. Kevin





## Board of Trustees

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

### Trusting Change

*Greetings, Beloved Community,*

You have my promise to be a happily invited and active participant throughout the year in workshops and events that engage in conversations about how we see ourselves at this time in the world. We will ask: Who we are now and what are we called to do as a faith community? What is UUCM's role in Beloved Community? Who is welcome? How do they know? How do we tap into the ideas and resources of everyone? As we explore the nuances and complexities of the changes that have happened to us, we will trust in the reimagining process to explore all the ways we can continue becoming a Beloved Community.

#### TRUSTING PLAY – BOARD RETREAT

The annual Board Retreat brings focused attention to building trust and setting our annual goal(s) and visions for ministry. The trustees also enjoy getting to know one another with amazing activities, playing fun games, and learning each other's personality type with Rev. Kevin's skillful facilitation of Enneagram theory. The learnings and bonds we make this year will last a lifetime.

A powerful set of learning gathered from the Sabbatical year has informed the Board with a clear-eyed review of the past. The retreat is when we review the year in terms of what worked well and what we wish we had done. During this year's retreat, the Board is figuring out how to best support Stewardship and the Article II study, as well as holding "Who Are We Now?" conversations. Stay tuned for a report on the single Board goal for the year. It's one way of modeling simplicity!

#### TRUSTING CHANGE – THE BOARD'S READING ASSIGNMENT

In this challenging time that requires resilience and balance, the Board will engage in a year-long common read of the book, *Trusting Change – Finding Our Way Through Personal and Global Transformation* by Karen Hering. *Trusting Change* offers ten skills for living on the thresholds of transition and connecting to inner wisdom. All of us on the Board already appreciate how humans are not meant to move through change alone. Along this literary journey, we will share challenges and possibilities and learn how to remain open when shifts happen. Hering writes, "In a time of rapid and significant change, we cannot afford to wait until we get it right. The threshold skills of letting go and seeking companions call us into conversation, to learn from one

another, to keep moving even when we are uncertain, and to open our hearts and minds to the many ways a changing world is meant to change us, too." The Board is looking forward to thresholding together. You can engage in thresholding, too: find the book at [Trusting Change Book](#).

#### TRUSTING BELOVED COMMUNITY

When we believe in ourselves and our values, our mission and covenant form a solid starting place to explore the ways we are faithfully becoming

Beloved Community. We are already building new networks of collective care and liberation for ourselves and our Justice partners. Check out the community mural project from this year's Pride Family Picnic, soon to be at UUCM! With love and connection, we will trust the path forward.

Thank you for the trust you've put in the new Board of Trustees. We are excited to be charged during this time of change, and the Board invites you to join in the collaborative and transformative work ahead.

*with love,*

*René*

### UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024**

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

#### *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.*

# Musings from the Membership Team

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

## SUMMER CAMPING IS COMING UP SOON!

You can still join this summer's camping trip at Eureka/Plumas State Park on August 18-20. 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)

## WE ARE COOKING UP CIRCLE SUPPERS FOR SEPTEMBER!

The Circle Suppers we held in the spring had such a great response that we are ready to begin the next series. Please join us in September for this rich opportunity for sharing food and conversation in a small group at a host's home. Whether you have never been to a circle supper or you have treasured them through the years, all are welcome to participate.

**First, we need to recruit hosts. From excited repeat hosts to hesitant first-timers, we'll need about 12 of you.**

You get lots of choices:

- Host a dinner, a tea, a brunch, or a lunch.
- Decide if you would like to have a vegetarian or an omnivorous meal and decide on your entrée (We will want to offer several vegetarian meals.)
- Pick the date and time
- Choose the number of guests.

Theresa Houtman has generously offered to help with set-up. She will organize guest sign-ups and give each host a guest list with contact information. From there, hosts reach out to their guests with any specific details and request potluck dishes to accompany the entree.

Potential hosts should contact Theresa at:  
[TheresaHoutman@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:TheresaHoutman@uugrassvalley.org) by August 5 to sign up!

## WE'RE PLANNING A FALL FESTIVAL

This is a great way for all ages to come together and celebrate the season. Pumpkin carving, face painting, potluck, music, and games anyone? We welcome input!

## UU101 AND STARTING POINT CLASSES ARE UNDERWAY.

Contact Ruth Edwards if you want to get on the list for the next round or want more information.

Please reach out at [membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org)

## Upcoming Services

*Continued from page 1...*

**August 20    The Camp-in**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
and Beth Karow, Worship Associate

*As a group of UUCM members and friends spends this weekend camping and connecting in the Sierra Buttes, we figured we'd join their campout in spirit and ritual by having a "camp-in" at UUCM! It's a perfect invitation to celebrate the interdependent web that holds us all and the importance of creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. Maybe we'll even find the tools and materials to do a little tent and web repair. No tent or bug spray needed.*

**August 27    Mirrors and Windows**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa,  
and Randy McKean, Worship Associate

*We UUs claim that we embrace our differences as well as our commonalities with love, curiosity, and respect. If only! To be fair, we do try, and more to the point, we aspire to such an embrace. Maybe that embrace is not as out of reach as it seems.*

**Sept. 3    Holding It Together**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa,  
and Carol Nimick, Worship Associate

*After a summer exploring our shared values, we draw the ends of all the summer service threads - and so draw ourselves - together, looking once again for the glue that binds us and what we care about.*







## Treasurer

Gail Schulz, Treasurer  
UUCM Board of Trustees

### A Few Tips for Setting Up Your Annual Pledges

*Just a few quick things to note as we move into our new Fiscal Year.*

For those who donate through the website, I learned recently that several people had duplicate contributions in July. How did this happen? Well, turns out that as originally structured, our website did not have a way to enter an ending date for repeating contributions, so when a new one was entered, there were two contributions in the same month! We caught this very early in the process, and I have now arranged with our system provider to add a place for you to enter an ending date for your repeating contribution. Meanwhile, for all Fiscal Year 2023-24 pledges we have manually entered an ending date at the end of the fiscal year.

Second, Siobhan did some research, and on our website you can now see exactly the fees that are charged for any of these transactions done through the website or PayPal. They are listed in order, from least costly to most. It might give you more of an idea of the least costly way of contributing to the church. (Since PayPal is the most expensive, I'd like to phase it out and will be contacting those donors who use this method.)

Third, for those of you who like to use the text donation method, I've learned that if you need to update your credit card information, send a text to the text number that says "Edit" and you'll be able to update your credit card. The site already tells you how to repeat the transaction and how to cancel a transaction.

And finally, you have all received updates of the status of your FY 2022-23 pledge payments and a separate note confirming the amount of your pledge for this new fiscal year. We plan to keep the information flowing during this fiscal year like the last. If you have any questions or concerns you can always contact Siobhan at [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org), and me at [Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org).

Meanwhile, a grateful thank you from the Finance team for keeping your contributions flowing so we can continue our work both within the walls of the church and in the broader community.



## Endowment

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

### Endowment Learning Opportunity

The UUCM Endowment Committee is planning an Estate Planning workshop on Saturday, September 9 from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM. We are still in the planning stages, but expect to have guest speakers who will share insight and information on setting up wills and/or trusts, and explain the value of doing so for your beneficiaries, as well as organizations you wish to support through endowments. We will also have input from Gail Schulz who recently went through the process after losing her husband, and how their trust helped her carry out his wishes, as well as taking care of her needs.

If you have been thinking about creating a trust, but have not gotten around to it, or want to find out more, this might be just what you need to get focused.



### ENDOWMENT THANK YOUS...

The Endowment Committee would like to extend our gratitude to....

Joel Houtman, who contributed \$75 to honor Theresa on her three-quarters-of-a-century Birthday!

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 supporting this work interests you, 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

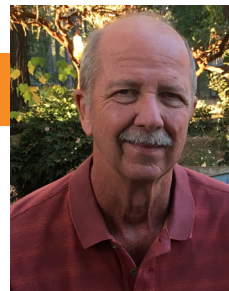
### Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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)

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

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 with 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*



## 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 <u>or</u> Robusta
	Light Roast <u>or</u> Dark Roast
	Whole Beans <u>or</u> Ground

Order through Julia Park Tracey at [coffee@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:coffee@uugrassvalley.org)



# Ruth Edwards – Sensitivity and Spirituality

A Profile by Jenny Dewey

Ruth Edwards describes sensitivity as a trait that is "...in our DNA." If you look up the definition of the word, sensitivity, you make surprising discoveries. Ruth is correct: there is a genetic component to exceptionally sensitive individuals.

Highly sensitive people, and Ruth is one, seek out safe places where intense emotions and self-awareness are advantages, not strikes against them. Another quote from Ruth: "Sensitive people matter." As with the phrase, Black Lives Matter, these words imply difficulties when it comes to fitting in.

Ruth was very young when she began her journey to fit in, one where being shy and acutely aware was honored, not rejected. She fled from a church service at age five. The church was "mainstream" and, for a perceptive five-year-old, a spiritual desert.

As she grew into an adult the effort to learn to be less shy was never-ending. Social awareness was not an advantage. A complex inner life did not make life easy.

After college she tried fitting into academia and found it stifling; a world where men made all the rules. She learned foreign languages, specializing in German and Russian. She worked for various companies, one where experiments were conducted to determine how to create the best fertilizer. She had good offers for excellent jobs and either turned them down or quit after a short time.

She was "too scared to go into the world." Her question to herself was: "What is wrong with me?" Retreating from the world, like running out of a church at age five, wasn't working.



*Ruth Edwards' high school graduation photo*

Turns out nothing was wrong with Ruth Edwards. Turns out her goal of fitting in was not a goal at all, but rather a stumbling, bumpy, rut-filled road leading nowhere. She found a book about highly sensitive people and in reading it learned innate sensitivity and emotional intelligence are advantages.

Ruth joined the Unitarian community where she found people who were looking, as she was herself, for personal spirituality. Not a generic spirituality, but a match, a place where she felt comfortable exploring herself and others.

There is an edginess to Ruth, the whiff of a tendency to withdraw, to withhold. Then the conversation begins. What comes forward is an exceptionally intelligent, deeply sensitive (there's that

word again) individual who is approachable and kind, gentle, honest, and articulate.

Both words: sensitivity and spirituality, are as frequently misunderstood as the dark side of the moon. Perhaps we know more about the moon. Taking time to explore these two realms is well worth our time. Ruth Edwards knows the value of this enterprise.





## Postcarding Begins Again!

By Gail Johnson-Vaughan,  
UUCM Justice Team

Postcards for Virginia's General Election are available at UUCM now. As before, we are working with the Center for Common Ground's Reclaim Our Vote Campaign to get out the Black voters in voter suppression states.

For this campaign they are targeting selected House and Senate contests where there is a clear choice for a candidate with a strong track record of supporting voting rights. Their campaigns are well organized and highly effective, making a significant impact on the election outcomes. The post cards are scripted as before. All you do is print the words on the cards and send them beginning September 8. (Early voting in Virginia begins September 22.)

### WHY A STATE ELECTION?

What happens in state legislatures affects us! By now most of us realize that those elected to state legislatures have an immense importance in defending or defeating democracy in the country. After years of clandestine strategy, extreme right candidates have gained the majority in many states. We are watching them pass laws to suppress the minority vote, eliminate reproductive rights, outlaw the teaching of factual US history, ban books in schools and publicly funded libraries, gerrymander voting districts, and more.

### WHY VIRGINIA?

Virginia is unique in holding its statewide elections in off years. All legislative seats are on the ballot. In November, Virginians will be electing state house and senate positions. Many local offices are also on the ballot. Virginia is the last southern state without an abortion ban. Their governor has said he would "happily and gleefully" sign an abortion ban if it reaches his desk.

### THREE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE – (SOME PEOPLE DO ALL THREE!)

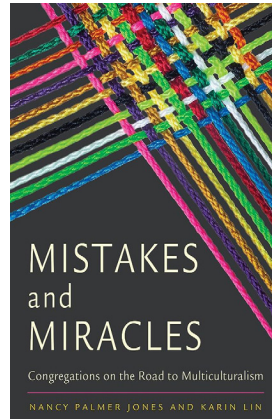
#### 1. Sign up to join our Post Card Club.

Club members agree to write and send a minimum of 1 packet of 20 post cards in August, September, and October. (This helps us plan for ordering needed supplies.)

Packets include stamps, postcards, addresses, a script, and instructions. Each packet costs us \$10 - a bit more since the cost of postcard stamps keeps going up: \$.51

now! Members who are able to do so donate \$10 cost per packet. Members who want to support the effort but not write postcards can be "funding members" and cover costs for fellow club members for whom cost is an issue. Click [HERE](#) to sign up. **Earlier donations will cover the costs of the first 93 packets so sign up soon!**

2. Pick up individual packets at UUCM
3. Enlist friends and families to write post cards, too.



## Bending the Arc Book Study Group Begins September 24

By Keith Johnson,  
UUCM Justice Team

A new book study group will start up in late September, with the first book for discussion *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*. This book, the UU Common Read for 2022-2023, sparks transformative conversation about making Beloved Community real while dismantling white supremacy in our Unitarian Universalist faith communities. Co-authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin – a white minister and a lay person of color – explore five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community and share the mix of joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.

According to UUA, "engaging with this book can help UU congregations grapple with our movement's charge to dismantle white supremacy in ourselves, our communities, and our world. Doing this Common Read together is one way for a UU faith community to engage in this important work."

The study group will meet for four 90-minute sessions starting on Sunday, September 24 at noon in the Channing Room. The dates for the remaining sessions will be decided by the group. The book will be available from the UUCM office for \$22 plus tax and shipping. For questions or to register, contact Keith Johnson at [Justice@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Justice@uugrassvalley.org).

## Justice News and Activities



### UUCMers in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade

Many members of UUCM joined the local chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) in the Grass Valley July 4th Parade. By partnering with a local organization, we are more effective than working alone and significantly strengthen the impact of our partner.

The CCL float promoted the four climate solutions:

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

Keith Johnson was in the lead supporting one end of the banner. Shannon Dooley-Miller and Leonna Sapphire were Healthy Forests, Carol Kuczora rode in Bob Branstrom's plug-in hybrid electric vehicle pulling the float. Bob Miller and granddaughter, Elif, were Carbon Fee and Dividend. Elif handed out dollar bills to kids viewing the parade. Andy Dooley-Miller drove a Bolt EV. Claire Miller brought up the rear in her recumbent bike flying the Stars and Stripes. Carmen Riley just managed to avoid running over people as she whizzed around on her eBike.



We got an enthusiastic reception to our climate solutions message from the exceptionally large crowd that lined the route.



### IFM (Interfaith Food Ministry) Monthly Update

Our long-time donations partner, Interfaith Food Ministry, needs volunteers in all positions. See [IFM Volunteer Needs](#) for a description of the positions available.

Their partner organization - United Way of Nevada County - needs help with their Nacho Booth at the State Fair. See [United Way Fair Booth](#).

### Share the Plate

UUCM's June Share the Plate recipient, [Kare Crisis Nursery](#), will receive \$937.55, 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 July partner, [Color Me Human](#).



Our August Share the Plate recipient is [Animal Place](#).

Animal Place extends compassion to all life with a special emphasis on farmed animals. Their California animal sanctuaries fill a much-needed niche of farm animal rescue, sanctuary, education, and adoption.

Animal Place is one of the largest and oldest sanctuaries in the nation, including a 600-acre sanctuary in Grass Valley.

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



# 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.

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 Meeting 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, August 14 at UUCM**. We originally planned to meet offsite, but have changed back to UUCM due to the heat. 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*

I bet if we were to gather a group of us together for a discussion about some of our fondest memories from childhood, many of those memories would be related to how we spent our summers. My childhood summer memories mostly involve palling around with neighborhood friends: participating in seemingly endless sessions of hide-n-seek or tag-you're-it, usually at dusk; competing against a very best friend all afternoon in impossibly long games of Chutes and Ladders or Monopoly; swimming all afternoon at the local high school pool and coming home thoroughly sunburned and ready to do it again the next day; walking half a mile (which seemed more like three miles) to the local branch of the town's library to return a pile of books and get a new pile to replace it; and riding bikes from one school yard recreation program to another, looking for opportunities to engage with the recreation leaders (fabulously charismatic high school students whom we adored).

Your specific activities were certainly not identical to mine, but they likely had some of the same feelings of open-endedness, possibility, and connection that mine had. Shift to the task of putting together a summer program for pre- and elementary school UU children. How great it would be to capture some of that magic—the open-endedness, possibility, and connection—that we recall from our long-ago summers, in my case well over 60 years ago. That goal may be too ambitious for a once-a-week program in a moderately sized UU community in the years following a pandemic that shifted everyone's ways of engaging with their world. But we on the Family Ministry Team are still holding the significance of memorable summer experiences in mind as we build the lessons each week for the children who show up to spend an hour engaging with us. The scale of our operation may be small, but our intentions are robust and heartfelt.

Through the month of August, we are continuing to use the UU Summer Curriculum entitled Can Do Summer. So far, this summer we have constructed and launched paper airplanes, built a fairy house, and explored all things fishy. Before the official publication of this newsletter occurs, we will be building blanket forts and exploring our bodies as percussion instruments. In August we will be building junk sculptures, making our way through obstacle courses, designing toothpick architecture, and perhaps creating our own mini-golf experience.

Let me end by saying we are always looking for people who would enjoy spending a Sunday with us in Kids Connection from time to time. We have a core group of dedicated people who have been helping as second teachers for a long time now, and we so very much appreciate them. If we could double that core group of people from about 4 to 5 to about 8 to 10, then no one person would be called upon to serve as a second teacher more than once every two months. The role of the second teacher is to be a presence in the room and help as needed. Mostly, it is a chance to enjoy the children. We hope that a few more of you will find your way to this opportunity to serve our UUCM community. It is a relatively low pressure/high reward way to serve UUCM, and if you would like to explore this opportunity to serve, contact us at [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org). Or, better yet, touch base some Sunday (before or after the service) with Cheryl Spaulding, Lindsay Dunkel, or Rene Wiley. We would be glad to share with you some of the joy that we experience by spending time with the youngest members in this UU community.

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

#### **CAN DO SUMMER—KIDS CONNECTION, SUNDAYS, AUGUST 6 - 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, Upper Jamison Camp. It's not too late to join the trip. Forward questions to 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)

**We're taking a break in August and have removed the August selection from our list.** This is the perfect opportunity to delve into books for September and October! (*Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver and *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.)

# August 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
30 <b>10:30 Fences &amp; Defenses</b> <b>12:00 Lisa Haden Artist Reception</b>  <b>12:00 Starting Point</b>	31	1 <b>7:30 Tuesday Walking Group</b> <b>4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting</b>	2 <b>8:30 Men's Group</b> <b>10:45 Humanism Discussion Group</b> <b>6:30 Adult Choir</b>	3 <b>7:30 Thursday Walking Group</b> <b>7:00 Singing Meditation</b>	4 <b>4:15 UUCM String Ensemble</b>	5
6 <b>10:30 From You I Receive, To You I Give</b> <b>12:00 Starting Point</b>	7	8 <b>7:30 Tuesday Walking Group</b>  <b>6:00 Book Launch Party!</b>  <b>6:00 Bending the Arc Taskforce</b>	9 <b>8:30 Men's Group</b>  <b>12:00 Art &amp; Aesthetics Team</b> <b>4:30 Ministry Council Meeting</b> <b>6:30 Adult Choir</b>	10 <b>7:30 Thursday Walking Group</b>  <b>10:30 Writers' Group</b>  <b>2:00 Finance Committee Meeting</b> <b>6:00 Worship Team Meeting</b>	11 <b>4:15 UUCM String Ensemble</b>	12 <b>3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle</b>
13 <b>10:30 Not Either Or</b> <b>12:00 Starting Point</b>	14 <b>6:00 Women's Circle</b>	15 <b>7:30 Tuesday Walking Group</b> <b>5:15 Nisenan Project Team Meeting</b>	16 <b>8:30 Men's Group</b> <b>1:00 Board of Trustees Meeting</b> <b>5:00 Justice Team Meeting</b> <b>6:30 Adult Choir</b>	17 <b>7:30 Thursday Walking Group</b> <b>10:00 Greeter Meeting</b>	18 <b>2:00 UUCM Camping Trip</b>  <b>4:15 UUCM String Ensemble</b>	19 <b>9:00 Building and Grounds Workday</b>
20 UUCM Camping Trip <b>10:30 The Camp-in</b>  <b>12:00 Starting Point</b> <b>12:30 Family Ministry Monthly Meeting</b>	21 <b>7:00 Citizens' Climate Lobby – Nevada County Chapter</b>	22 <b>7:30 Tuesday Walking Group</b>	23 <b>8:30 Men's Group</b> <b>2:00 Membership Team Meeting</b> <b>6:30 Adult Choir</b>	24 <b>7:30 Thursday Walking Group</b> <b>10:30 Writers' Group</b>	25 <b>4:15 UUCM String Ensemble</b>	26
27 <b>10:30 Mirrors and Windows</b> <b>12:00 Starting Point</b>	28	29 <b>7:30 Tuesday Walking Group</b>	30 <b>8:30 Men's Group</b> <b>6:30 Adult Choir</b>	31 <b>7:30 Thursday Walking Group</b>	1 <b>4:15 UUCM String Ensemble</b>	2



## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: [uugrassvalley.org](https://www.uugrassvalley.org)



**Most Updated Version of the UUCM Calendar:**  
<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/calendar/>



**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

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**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](#)

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