

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

September 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 14 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

SEPTEMBER THEME: *The Gift of Welcome*

Sept. 3 *Holding it Together*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa; 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.

Sept. 10 *There's a River Flowing: Are You Coming?*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa; Cheryl Morris, Worship Associate

This year's Water Communion service not only invites us to celebrate the importance of true community, ever more vital in these times, it will also invite members to claim, truly, their deep ownership of UUCM and its continual creation. As one larger framing offers, it's in part a conscious move from being consumers to being citizens.

NOTE: For the Water ceremony, you are invited to bring a small amount of water from home or from someplace meaningful to you to add to our shared bowl, symbol of all that you bring and all that we are together.

Sept. 17 *Radical Welcome*

Lindsay Dunckel & Randy McKean,
Worship Leaders

As an institution such as UUCM, we can offer an invitation: "Join us!" with a coda "and share in what we do here"; we can offer

inclusivity: "Come!" with a coda "help us be diverse"; or we can offer radical welcome: "Bring your whole self, your voice, your culture, your ideas" with a coda "we are ready and willing to enter a truly mutual relationship, to change and be changed by you."

Sept. 24 *Awake at the Wheel: Remembering Who You Are* Rev. Kevin Tarsa; Beth Karow, Worship Associate

Wisdom from numerous sacred and secular traditions teaches that each of us has, in some important ways, fallen asleep to our true nature, to our essential self, to who we really are. The key for each of us is to learn to notice the ways we keep ourselves asleep, to realize that so much of our habitual searching prevents us from getting what we truly seek, and to discover, with compassion, that the box we are in is of our own making.

This is the first in a year-long series of services drawing on the Enneagram as a tool for our internal journey, our self-acceptance, and thus our well-being and our growth.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Dear ones, a few notes here at the edge of the new year:

We are holding our monthly Soul Matters themes a little more loosely this year, at least in terms of Sunday services, to allow room for what most needs to happen or to be addressed on a given Sunday. With the September theme of “The Gift of Welcome,” for example, in the September 10 Water Ceremony service we’ll certainly attend to our thoughts and our feelings about both how welcome we feel in this UU community and how we offer welcome, but “welcome” will serve as but one lens through which we will examine our lives and the world that day and during the month. Most months, I expect that one service will tackle the theme head on, which Lindsay will invite in the September 17 service exploring Radical Welcome. And on the final September Sunday, I’ll begin a year long series of services inviting each of us to know and to welcome our truest, most real selves, and invite us to help each other to do the same.

In September we’ll also offer several starter **Soul Matters Circles** – a chance for ongoing participants to gather with new folks, for new folks to sample what a circle feels like, and to serve as preparation for the establishment of this year’s new ongoing circles. See more in this issue of the Mountain Chalice about these Soul Matters Circles. Know that they are great chances to connect in a small group and to look within. I recommend them to you.

In mid-September I’ll be taking part in a UU pilgrimage and study trip to Poland’s Unitarian “heartland,” where early religious dissenters—who called themselves the Polish Brethren—established congregations in the early 1560s that openly challenged the doctrine of the trinity, rejected infant baptism, and debated the morality of military service from their pacifist devotion to the life of Jesus. Not only is the area home to some extraordinary UU history (a town founded as a Unitarian town, for example, and which became for a time the hotbed center of learning and debate that spread Unitarian influences throughout Europe for centuries), it’s also the area from which my own Polish ancestors came. In fact, I harbor a fantasy that my ancestors were early Unitarians, and the evidence so far matches such a possibility. So, this is for me an initial Polish pilgrimage at multiple levels, one I hope to continue in a few years. I look forward to sharing with you what I have learned.

I’ll share that the Board and I are approaching this year with an overarching goal of cultivating members’ ownership of this community. While belonging to this inherited UU tradition does not allow that absolutely anything goes, at heart UUCM is and needs to be your congregation. The current state of humanity and the earth highlight the importance of living into such ownership, or, to put it another way, of living into meaningful citizenship. On September 10 I’ll speak to and invite the possibility of all of us, me included, moving together from a consumer model to a citizen model.

Finally, I am very pleased to note that your Board and Minister have discerned a set of mostly shared goals for the year, rather than separate goals. Our own brainstorming and reflection yielded goals that were very much aligned with the priorities surfaced by Ministry team leaders in our August Ministry Council meeting. (Look for more information in the other columns in this issue.) In cultivating ownership we’ll be working together with all of you to strengthen our connections and sense of shared purpose, pooling our gifts and energies to have a deeply successful stewarding year, and reaching out steadily to the wider community. We’ll be actively looking to your insight and wisdom and participation as to the “how.”

The one goal for this year that remains specifically on the Ministry side of responsibilities, and which will also require your insight, wisdom and participation, is to cultivate spiritual and emotional growth and depth, including joy, for these times. This is the deepest calling for me.

September arrives. Schools are in session. Rhythms settle in, for some of us. Here’s to a transformative year, or at least a year that has each of us and UUCM launched meaningfully into the transformative journey that will serve not only us, but our wider community for the next set of years. So may we be!

With care,

– Rev. Kevin

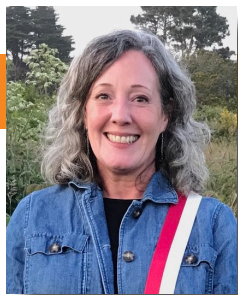
REV. KEVIN'S OFFICE HOURS



Currently held by appointment.

Contact Rev. Kevin
at (231) 883-1058
or

minister@uugrassvalley.org



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

Board of Trustees

Shared Growth

At UUCM, shared Ministry and Board goals are offering space to grow in new ways, with collective ownership emerging as a theme. There are brave, heartfelt discussions taking place that reassess and redefine some of our UUCM processes in keeping with our mission. All around are signs that our mission is juicy and alive and our commitments to one another in love and joy are deepening. Together we can accomplish so much more than we can alone.

The Board of Trustees has begun a year-long journey with the book, *Trusting Change*, as a companion on our personal, church governance, and global thresholds. Facing the changes in our personal lives gives each of us valuable perspectives for facing global change together. Learning to stay open to liminal space requires new skills while cultivating strength in support of one another. We are sharing experiences in identifying the personal thresholds on which we find ourselves, along with exercises in letting go to find wholeness. Sharing this thresholding journey has become our Board check-in process, and it is deepening our interrelationships.

Interested in starting a [thresholding journey](#)?

Are you in search of evidence of our UUCM mission in action? For starters, I suggest checking out our website for reading the monthly Board reports! Get Rev. Kevin's personal insights into the congregation and Treasurer Gail's easy narrative describing the fiscal landscape each month. Their thoughtfully prepared Minister's and Treasurer's reports are located here:

[Member Resources](#)

The Board and Rev. Kevin, along with committee and team leaders, have been clarifying goals based on what we've heard from members over the past couple of years. We want to thank you for your openness and dedication in visioning with us over that time! We are recognizing that collaborative, shared goals between the Ministry and Governance areas can create new energy while bringing us together in shared purpose. It's one way we can simplify.

I'll share the draft goals, though they are still in development. Get ready and notice the places where Governance and Ministry share a vision.

A quick reminder of how governance is basically sorted at

UUCM: the Board governance manages fiscal responsibility and policy guidance, while the Minister and Ministry teams strengthen caring community in every which way, allowing everyone to collaboratively create a vibrant, mission-focused Beloved Community. There is some overlap of purpose, which we are happily navigating in the shared goals.

2023 Board Goals – in development.

1. Cultivate and strengthen member ownership of UUCM
 - a. Governance
 - i. Identify and encourage communication between committees, teams, and staff, recognizing commonality and shared purposes.
 - b. Ministry
 - i. Renew and strengthen meaningful member connections through explicit invitations and opportunities, measuring the level of connection along the way.
 - ii. Involve members in envisioning and manifesting UUCM's ministries
 - iii. Cultivate a clear sense of shared purpose and vision – mission – responding to unfolding changes.
2. Have a successful Stewarding Year
3. Reach out steadily to the wider community in order to be known, inviting, and welcoming, as well as to serve.

2023 Ministry Goals - in development

1. Cultivate spiritual and emotional growth and depth, including joy, for these times.

As these goals are still in development, some of the details are yet to be determined. In the spirit of collaboration, your input for the ways we reach these goals is invited. If you would be willing to name one or two concrete ideas that could support the goals, please submit them to me.

Get engaged with the "Stewarding – What Now?" conversation that explores a shared model of responsibility from both Ministry and Governance, and works toward the goal of having a successful Stewardship year. At a recent UUCM gathering of many leaders, valuable insight was gained around the relationship around Beloved Community building, collective member-ownership, and healthy fiscal responsibility. Stay tuned for more opportunities to learn about the new shape of what's being developed for Stewarding.

Continued on Page 4...

Board of Trustees

The Ministry and Governance shared goal of reaching out to the wider community and extending welcome requires a commitment to building Beloved Community, and there are already signs of this love emerging in new ways!

Look for the beautiful "Create the Community You Wish to Be" painting to arrive home at UUCM this week. Co-sponsoring the Pride Family Picnic and inviting a community art project in June, we welcomed neighbors and friends to get to know us. Folks were invited to joyfully "Create the Community You Wish to Be" on a large canvas with paint. Artistically guided by Willow Osborn, the painting is an empowering, multi-racial, multi-gen, super colorful vision of collective joy and liberation for all beings.

Also, a list was gathered from folks wanting to participate in a monthly LGBTQ+ potluck event. Contact president@uugrassvalley.org if you would like to help kickoff the potluck event. Thanks for all who are living our mission out in the public square.

The Justice team is reaching out to the wider community with a generosity network opportunity for contributions to help the Andou-St. Fort family establish safety and happiness here in Nevada County. The Saturday, September 9th Justice fundraising event hopes to highlight the family's joys and needs and to explore the many ways that we can help. Donations will go to the Haitian Family Relief Fund, a sub of the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

Proof positive, we are a generous people making a collective difference in our community.

Together we can accomplish so much more.

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.



Treasurer

Gail Schulz, Treasurer
UUCM Board of Trustees
Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org

Good News and an Invitation!

Happy September, everyone. I love September, perhaps because I have a birthday and I'm still alive and busy!

But! I'm very pleased to let you know that you have completed 98.5% of your pledge payments for the 2022-2023 Fiscal year. I know it may seem weird to be really happy about that, but it reflects my genuine gratitude and joy to be an active part of such a wonderful and caring community. Here at UUCM, our faithful community has worked so hard to meet the needs and requirements to keep us a vibrant, caring community with a great minister and oh so competent and lovely staff. So, yes, I celebrate the money thing!

Now, on to other news: We once again have a delightful, functioning Endowment Committee that is working to bring you a very helpful no-cost workshop. They have arranged for Rich Keene and Laura Pare, two local estate planning attorneys to join us for an estate planning workshop on September 9, at 9:30 AM at the church and on Zoom. And you will learn a bit more about the UUCM Endowment Fund and how you can add to it, now or in the future if you desire.

Let me get a bit personal here. A bit over 2 years ago, as my husband, Robert, was nearing the end of his 23-year fight with Alzheimer's disease, I suddenly realized that our estate plan, finalized in 2010, was not up to date. We have one surviving child, a son, Brian, and somehow, we were going to shortchange him under the 2010 plan. Not what we intended. Rich and Laura had structured their practice to make time to deal with some people with last minute needs, and so we were able to fix things before Robert died. Now that several years have passed, I'm wondering if I truly understand what is in my estate plan, and I think I need to work with them to review and consider my changed circumstances. I now have a house, a cat, and a great church community to think about.

So, for those of you without an estate plan, join us to begin the process of learning what needs to be done. And for the rest of us who have such plans: How old are they? Have circumstances changed? HUMMMMM.

SEE YOU ON SEPTEMBER 9 AT 9:30 AM.

Bring your questions and hopefully there will be some answers! You can then follow up with any attorney with whom you prefer to work. No obligation here.

Membership Team

Laura Harter, Leader, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

September Membership Musings

NOW IS THE TIME TO SIGN UP FOR CIRCLE SUPPERS!

You are invited to join others for a potluck supper. We have hosts for September 1, 9, 10, 16, 19, 23, 30, and October 1. Most hosts will provide meat and vegetarian entrees. The dinner on September 16 will be vegan. And there is a lunch option on September 19 at UUCM.

Each meal and host eagerly await your good company. Once you have signed up, your host will contact you with details. Sign up by contacting theresahoutman@uugrassvalley.org or call Theresa at (530) 277-9294 with questions.

SAVE THE DATE: FALL FESTIVAL AT UUCM *SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2:00 TO 6:00 PM*

Food, fun, and time to celebrate the change of season and harvest time. Contact Shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org for more information or to help.

UU101 AND STARTING POINT CLASSES *COMPLETED IN AUGUST – MORE TO COME!*

Cynthia Burton, Diana Gibson, Barbara Johnson, Mark Grove, Anne Lyon, Carmen Riley, Katie Ianni, and Betsy Haydon explored their UU journeys together with Rev. Kevin. Please take a few moments to introduce yourself after a service.

If you would like to know more about **Starting Point**, please ask one of these folks or contact Rev. Kevin at minister@uugrassvalley.org or Ruth Edwards at membership@uugrassvalley.org.

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

Next month we will report on the August
Summer Camping Trip!

Ideas, questions or comments? Please reach out at
membership@uugrassvalley.org



Endowment

Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
endowment@uugrassvalley.org

FREE Estate Planning Workshop *SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 9:30 TO 11:30 AM*

Whether you already have a will or trust set up, or you've been thinking it is about time you did, don't miss this opportunity to find out more about Wills and Trusts, Durable Powers of Attorney, Advance Health Care Directives and more.

Two local attorneys, Richard Keene and Laura Pare, who are VOLUNTEERING their time to give us some information about what we need to do to get started, AND they are ready and willing to answer your questions about your current estate plans, and what you might need to have updated because of changes in your life situation.

We would really like to have good attendance – please come!



ENDOWMENT THANK YOUS...

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

BOTH Rev. Kevin and Gene Gilligan
who each donated in celebration of their recent birthdays!
Each gift brings us closer to the \$50,000 base when we can start using earnings toward special programs at UUCM.

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 with your questions!

Worship Team

Words from the Worship Team

by Cheryl Morris and Carol Nimmick

It's a time of transition for the Worship Team. After seven years of devoted service as team leader, Gail Johnson Vaughan has stepped back from leadership, but not from the team. As she says, "it feeds me." There are no words to thank Gail adequately for all she has done. But please note that it is taking two of us to begin to do the job!

We would like to introduce ourselves as co-leaders. Both of us are fairly new to UUCM and were drawn to join the team as fledgling members. Being part of creating and presenting worship services has made us feel deeply a part of UUCM in a much shorter time than we could have imagined. It is inspiring, stimulating, challenging, creative, fun, and ever-changing. We feel privileged to begin our terms (and, yes, we are establishing term limits, for our own well-being) at a time when there seems to be a creative ferment brewing at UUCM.

Rev. Kev returned from sabbatical with energy, passion, and many questions. His plans for the church year will reflect his deep and clearly articulated thinking about all aspects of this community. We are excited to have the opportunity to work closely with him as he asks the congregation to join him in identifying needs, values, and strategies that will serve us well.

For our part, we want to demystify the worship planning process and make it accessible, inclusive, and, yes, fun. We want to hear your thoughts about what moves you, what stimulates you, and most especially how you would like to be involved. It's not necessary to be a full-fledged Worship Associate to participate and contribute. Please feel free to approach any member of the team with your thoughts, ideas and inspirations. Current team members are Lindsay Dunckel, Gail Johnson Vaughan, Beth Karow, Randy McKean, and Sophia McKean (brand new! Welcome Sophia!), and Tracy Pepper, plus the two of us, Carol Nimmick and Cheryl Morris.

It is a pleasure and an honor to serve this congregation.



Cheryl Morris, pictured, and Carol Nimmick have stepped up to fill the very big shoes of Gail Johnson Vaughan, and lead the Worship Team.

Unfortunately, at the time the newsletter was being put together, Carol Nimmick was out of town.... so we do not have a photo of her.

A Gift of Thanks



Thank You from Jenny

Jenny Dewey has gifted UUCM with a beautiful new chalice! It will be available and lit in the Library or the Channing Room or in any of the various gatherings at UUCM. Jenny shares that she wanted to offer a symbol of her gratitude for the generous support she received from members and friends after spring snows damaged her home. Jenny adds that the chalice arrived with a note curled inside the stem, a quote from Thich Nhat Hanh:

*Our true home is in the present moment.
To live in the present moment is a miracle.
The miracle is not to walk on water.
The miracle is to walk on the green earth
in the present moment, to
appreciate the peace and beauty that are available now.
Peace is all around us — in the world and in nature—
and within us — in our bodies and our spirits.
Once we learn to touch this peace,
we will be healed and transformed.
It is not a matter of faith; it is a matter of practice.*





Parish Care

Gwen Eymann
Leader, UUCM Parish Care Team
Caring@uugrassvalley.org

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

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

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that we all share in the responsibility for one another's care, and we invite all members and friends of UUCM to become actively involved in this wonderfully important opportunity for service. If 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



PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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



Lay Pastoral Care Team

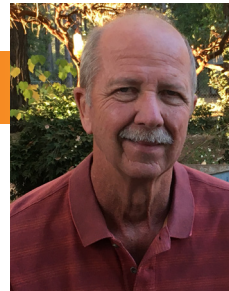
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

UUCM's Lay Pastoral Care Team (LPCT) offers a confidential, caring presence to congregants undergoing stressful life challenges. With the support and guidance of the minister, team members commit to be available for weekly caring conversations of up to one hour, and for the duration of a congregant's current challenge or until a time of closure arises naturally.

Please contact a member of the Lay Pastoral Care Team when you are facing difficult and stressful portions of your journey and if you feel that a companioning presence from one of our team members might be helpful to you.

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

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



B & G Team

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

Getting Stuff Done While Having Fun!

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

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

-Wally



Art and Aesthetics Team

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

The Art and Aesthetics Team met in person at the church in August (the team meets every other month, so there was no meeting in July). However, Phil Horning helped install Lisa Haden's show in the library gallery for its July 15 opening, and Laura Harter held an opening reception for Lisa.

PROGRESS ON THE MURAL

The team and volunteers from the church membership have been busy working on the canvas mural. Shanti, Laura, and Robin painted gesso on the canvas to prepare the mural for painting last month. Phil hung the canvas on the back wall in the teen RE room and Robin and Linda then came in and drew the outlines in black marker using a digital projector with Jenny's design on the computer. Our thanks go out to Gail Johnson Vaughn for lending us the projector. Linda and Robin met on August 2 to go over painting supplies and talk to Jenny by phone when she wasn't able to make the meeting in person to discuss color palettes. They also made calls to members who had signed up for the painting process. Painting was started on August 9 after the A&A meeting, and Phil hung a plastic sheet to protect the wall and floor behind the mural. Then Phil, Linda, Robin, and Mark Grove began to paint in the design. We hope to have the painting finished in two to three weeks. We are limiting the number of painters to 2-3 people at a time so as to not get in each other's way. Linda Siska is keeping a schedule with one team member and one volunteer for each painting day.

SOME CHANGES FOR THE COMING CHURCH YEAR 23-24

After eight years of being team leader of the Art and Aesthetics Team, I have decided to step down September 1, and become one of the "rank-and-file" members. Change is good, and by passing the torch, fresh ideas can happen with the team. Linda Siska has graciously accepted the role of Team Leader, and she will be an excellent successor. She will get some help from Shanti in doing the bi-monthly column for the Mountain Chalice, and I am sure the team will all be there to support her. And after working on the mural, Mark Grove has joined the team - he will be a nice addition to A&A!

LIBRARY ART GALLERY SHOW SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Lisa Haden – Art works – July 15 – September 15
Renee Weilmann – 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. We have filled all the slots for this year and are looking for new artists for 2024.

Introducing René Weilmann

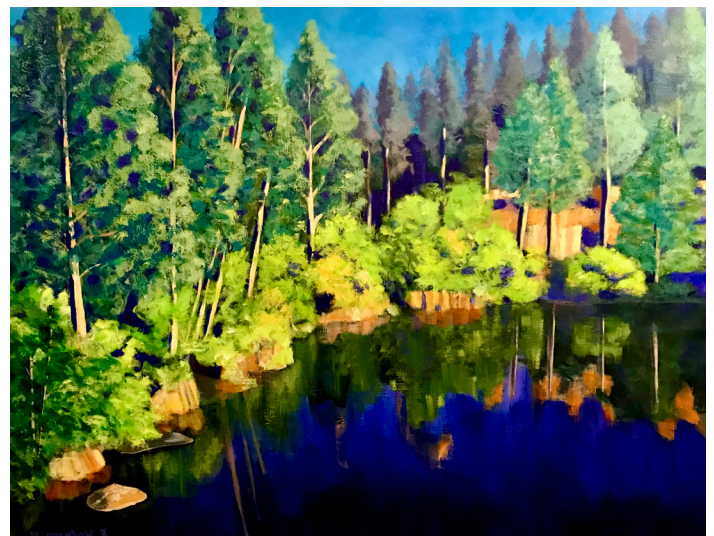
Featured artist at our UUCM Library Art Gallery from
September 15 – November 15, 2023

Renee Weilmann grew up in Southern California and Hawaii and has lived in Nevada City for the past 24 years. In her early years, she loved expressing herself creatively through drawing and painting, and studying Hawaiian and Tahitian languages, ballet, and tap dance. Later, in high school and college, she studied photography and printmaking. In the 1990s she began to paint, and simultaneously began "painting" with plants in her garden. In the mid-2000s, she began quilting with UUCM's "Frayed Knots," a group started and led by Kia Hatch which included UUCM members Gwen Eyman, Robin Hart, Theresa Houtman, and Gail Johnson Vaughn.

This is the first time her paintings have been shown publicly.



Two of René's paintings from the show are pictured: on the left: "Three Sisters" and below: "Hirschmans Pond."



What is Humanism?

A Profile of George Dunstan by Jenny Dewey

George Dunstan reports hearing Unitarian Universalists saying “Turns out I’ve been a Humanist all along.” Or the reverse, “Turns out I’ve been a Unitarian Universalist all along.”

Like so many members of the UUCM congregation George finds his beliefs as a Humanist compatible with the principles of Unitarian Universalism. Both urge authenticity in each of us as humans, and both urge living lives of personal fulfillment that add to the greater good of humankind.

George has a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Toxicology. At present he is retired from the State of California, having worked as a specialist in air, water, and soil pollution. He is a science-based thinker who believes in rationalism rather than superstition.

Human catastrophes like the Black Death, a volcanic eruption, or a solar eclipse, can create havoc in the minds and souls of human beings. Unless the true causes of these events are known there can be nothing but fear surrounding them. Fear builds on itself until rational thinking is lost in fable, in unreality.

George is able to recognize fear generated by unfamiliar and devastating human experiences, fear that leads to closing in on one’s self like a sow bug turning into a ball.

Discovering ways to counter anti-science, or anti-natural thinking, requires compassion as well as understanding.

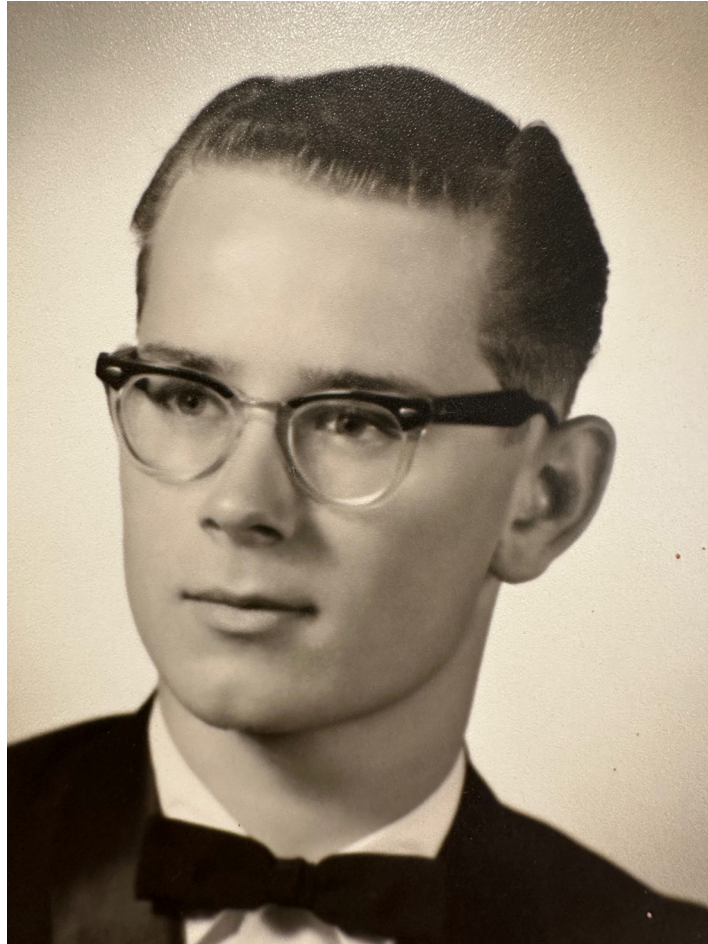
Being a Humanist means having more than a one-sided view of life. George has this kind of expansive approach to living. It is a gift.

A favorite idea of mine is how creative powers in one human being can enhance and expand creativity in others. Creativity, as used here, describes a whole range of thoughts and feelings. Humanism and Unitarian Universalism principles urge us to be creative, not only in our thinking but in everyday actions. George inspires creativity in thinking, in points of view, and of ways of being in the world.

There is a lot more to be said about Humanism, far more than can be encapsulated in a few hundred words. George holds meetings at UUCM (open to all: email ([Humanism@](mailto:Humanism@uugrassvalley.org)

uugrassvalley.org for information) once a month for conversation on topics of interest to Humanists. George says there is nearly always a “Devil’s Advocate” present to stir things up.

A calm, self-possessed and gentle human being is one way to define a Humanist. Another way is to get to know George a little better.



George Dunstan's high school graduation photo

Justice News and Activities



Welcome to the Andou/St Fort Family

Moustapha Andou and her sons Daniel (8) and Samuel (4) are moving rapidly toward completion of much paperwork, and the boys began school last month and seem to be happy and doing well. However, it is clear that the boys suffer from the “secondary trauma” of beginning a new school in a new language, and immediately following their departure from Haiti. They also miss their father Nazaire, whose status and travel approval we continue trying to expedite. Happily, all three are progressing rapidly in English as a second language.

We are grateful for those who have contributed time, many household items, and money in support of Moustapha and the boys. Today we are most needing help in transporting the boys to school occasionally, and transportation for Moustapha to some of the appointments that are still pending for medical and other services. She plans to begin preparing to take her driving test so she will be able to take over much of the school driving, as well as search for work.

And for those who can contribute financially, the number of anticipated and unexpected expenses is substantial. After using 225,000 frequent flyer miles for three tickets to San Francisco, we anticipate a significant airfare to bring the Dad Nazaire to be reunited with his family. We are especially grateful to the UUCM Justice Team for sponsoring the **September 9 Welcome Event** and ask that all who can, please attend and meet the family in person.



Successful Survey – Still Time to Participate if You Haven't Yet!

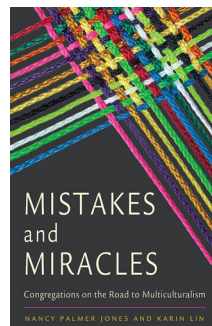
By Bob Miller, Justice team

We on the Justice Team were impressed with the work of some small groups within UUCM. The Hospitality House dinner crew, the IFM work group, and the Habitat lunch team are fine examples. We want to create some more.

We issued a survey on UUCMConnect listing some possible activities, and asked members to indicate those they may be able to support. So far, we have received 33 responses, which is terrific, unless you have to analyze them all to discover potential groups and leaders. You can still respond using this link: <https://forms.gle/PBWN928Tbs7qk87c8>

If it does not work for you contact climate@uugrassvalley.org

Look for updates as we do the analysis.



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.



Postcarding Continues... Act Quickly!

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.)

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.



IFM (Interfaith Food Ministry)

IFM is in need of volunteers - specifically drivers and checkers. Qualifications:

- **DRIVERS** must have a truck or van and a good back to pick up perishable food items from local markets, starting at 7:30 AM. Two - three hours, you select the dates to work. Training provided and helper assigned if needed.
- **CHECKERS** greet, talk with clients to go over food choices and log their visit into the computer. 9:30AM - 1:15PM shifts on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, or 8AM - 1PM on Saturday. You choose your dates. Training provided.

IFM is also in need of donations of paper bags and egg cartons!

Share the Plate

UUCM's July Share the Plate recipient, [Color Me Human](#), will receive \$993.97, 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 August partner, [Animal Place](#).



Our September Share the Plate recipient is [Sierra Streams Institute](#). Sierra Streams Institute is a regional watershed science organization based in Nevada City, California, dedicated to increasing watershed stewardship capacity throughout the Sierra Nevada region and beyond. SSI works with local, state, and federal agencies as well as universities and community groups to find solutions to the problems that afflict Deer Creek, Bear River, and other watersheds. UUCM member Lang Waters is President of the Board of Directors for Sierra Streams Institute

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

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 TO END ITS JOURNEY

After more than a decade of creating peer support space through the weekly Drop-in Support Circle, we, the facilitators, with Rev. Kevin's support, are realizing that with very small numbers of participants of late, it's time to let this particular effort come to an end and time to guide people toward other forms of care and mutual support in the congregation.

The final Drop-in Support Circle will be held on Sunday, September 10 at noon. We thank all those who have participated in the Circle over the years, offering the powerful gifts of your deep listening and your thoughtful witnessing of other's journeys. Know that mutual care here at UUCM does not end. It simply finds new forms.

*With gratitude to all for your support of the
Drop-in Support Circle,
Corrie Silva, Wally Holtan, Tom Wernigg,
and Janet Bullock (facilitators)*

Make Connections at UUCM

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!

WALKING GROUP - SUMMER STROLLS

Hopefully with most of the hot weather behind us, the Walking Group will begin meeting at **8:00 AM**, effective September 5. 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 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



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, September 6 at 10:45AM at UUCM will be Restorative Justice, Equality vs Equity, and Fair Equality of Opportunity

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

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

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

Contact 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, September 11 at UUCM**. We're having a guest presenter: Beth Rose's family doctor and naturopath, Dr. Ilene Crisdahl, will talk about Cardiovascular Health and Osteoporosis. 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 and she will add you. You'll get monthly updates and reminders of our meetings, and you can participate in discussions about our activities.

Community Connections

Spirituality Sharing Circle

By *Scottie Hart*

It turns out that many UUCMers are unaware there's a **Spirituality Sharing Circle** once a month. "What's it all about?" "Is it sort of traditional? Is it sort of 'woo-woo'?" "What is spirituality, anyway?" "Might it enhance my UU faith, or would it just feel uncomfortable?"

Well, in true UU style, there's not an exact answer. With the caveat that there is much each of us holds in our heart that doesn't go into words very well, let's see if we can generate more light than heat...

Let's start by acknowledging that we're a varied lot: Some UUs have valued religious roots, but fear being judged if they use traditional language ("God" comes to mind!). Others have a sort of generalized sense that there may be more to the Universal Equation than strict science can explain. Some UUs treasure a contemplative process that allows space for discernment. In this rich mix, the Spirituality Sharing Circle prioritizes respect for complexity and nuance.

One definition of spirituality is "the experience of being human together." Or perhaps "the tuning of the inner person with the great mysteries and secrets that are around us." What would you suggest? Your personal understanding will be encouraged and honored in this group.

ARE YOU CURIOUS?

Here's the facts: the group gathers at UUCM on the **second Saturday of the month from 3:00 – 4:30 PM**. (Zoom option exists.)

After opening words and a chalice lighting, those who wish check in for 2-3 minutes, broadly focusing on their current spiritual question, challenge, or exploration. Then we sit together in shared silence for about fifteen minutes. Another round of sharing addresses what has arisen in each of us during the gathering. By then, it's time to close, even though we tend to want to keep sharing the warmth, acceptance and creativity that have been generated.

GOT QUESTIONS?

Touch base with Scottie Hart, Lindsay Dunckel, or Rev. Kevin for more details. ...or just "come on down!"

Full Community

To Soul Matters Circle Members

soulmatters@uugrassvalley.org

We hope you've had a rich experience in your circle this past year. Thank you to you and the facilitators for bringing yourselves so genuinely to this journey of sharing and connecting. This message is to share the plans for this fall, to ask about your participation in the new year, and to request a sentence or two about what the experience has meant to you.

As you may know, each circle decides what it wants to do over the summer. Some circles meet for simple social celebrations and others seek materials as a resource for a couple more months of sharing.

We're beginning our planning for the fall, which includes saying a huge "Thank you!" to Jo Waters for her fabulous administrating, and welcoming Gene Gilligan and Lin Jovanovic to the Soul Matters Administrator role!

Starter/sample circles will be offered in September, and then we'll kick off the official new year of circles in October.

You know already that Soul Matters circles are meant to form for one congregation year. Circles are then invited to draw upon the powerful connections formed and to share that ability to go deep by making new connections with new people the next year, so that the threads across the community become more and more widespread, interwoven, and strong. Plus, you'll still have the deep connections you've already made to take with you!

Would you like to be in a Soul Matters circle in the coming UUCM year? If you know already, please contact Gene at soulmatters@uugrassvalley.org. And, if you feel drawn to the possibility of facilitating a circle, please contact Gene or Rev. Kevin.

Regardless, would you please share with us a sentence or two about what being in a circle has meant to you, or how it has been valuable? It's a great way to help new people know what circles can offer, and for us to get feedback. We'd also be glad for any descriptions and photos of service projects circles undertook. Please send your thoughts and photos to Gene at soulmatters@uugrassvalley.org.

May those of you still concluding your Soul Matters year have a meaningful closing circle or two.

With gratitude for the heart and soul that you brought to your circle, and with deep gratitude to our generous and thoughtful facilitators,

– Rev. Kevin, Gene Gilligan, and Lin Jovanovic

Welcome Back to Church

By Cheryl Spaulding,
 UUCM Family Ministry Team Member

Welcome back to a new church year of working together, celebrating together, and simply enjoying each other's company. One thing this UU community does exceptionally well is welcome people into the flow of activity that is UUCM. It is who we are and what we do—"we are a welcoming people." This month we are extending a very heartfelt welcome to the Andou-St. Fort family. Moustapha, and her two sons—Daniel (8) and Samuel (4)—traveled all the way from Haiti to start new lives here in Nevada County.

On Saturday, September 9, from 7:00 PM to approximately 9:00 PM here at UUCM, we will hold a reception to welcome this special family formally. All, including children, are invited to join us as we express our commitment to being a supportive and caring presence during this challenging time in their lives. Both of the Andou-St. Fort boys will be at the reception. Childcare will be provided. Perhaps your children would enjoy meeting them and being a part of this welcoming event.

With the inception of the new church year, we are also welcoming children, especially those who took a summer break from Sundays at UUCM, back to Kids Connection every Sunday during the service. Upon entering our Kids Connection room, you may notice a new arrangement, as well as some new materials for play. We are inviting all children to come see these changes for themselves. As the year progresses, we will be exploring how to use the Kids Connection space available to us as we explore what we are calling "UU Values and Principles at Play." More to come on these developments.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

KIDS CONNECTION

will be available every Sunday in September.

RECEPTION FOR THE ANDOU-ST. FORT FAMILY:

Saturday, September 9, 7:00 to ~9:00 PM at UUCM.
 Children welcome.

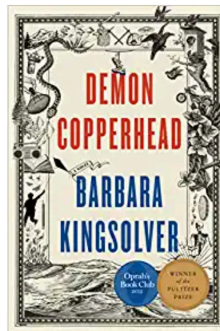
BUILDING AND GROUNDS WORKDAY:

Saturday, September 16, 9 AM - 12 PM. All ages are welcome.
 Age appropriate tasks will be made available for children.

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

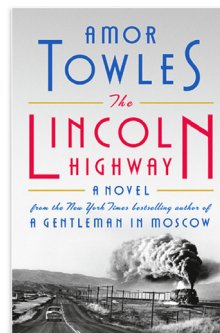


Sunday, September 10, *Demon Copperhead*,

by Barbara Kingsolver,

Demon Copperhead brings Charles Dickens' book, *David Copperfield*, to life in modern day poverty-stricken Appalachia. Born to a teenage, drug-addicted single mother in a run-down trailer, *Demon Copperhead* has no assets beyond good looks, copper-colored

hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. We follow him through the modern day perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success followed by drug addiction, a disastrous love, and eventually to a precarious hope for a successful life drawing on his artistic talents and a sincere friendship. Presenter: Mary Pickett



Sunday October 8, *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

The Lincoln Highway is a joyride. Amor Towles' new Great American Road Novel tails four boys — three 18-year-olds who meet in a juvenile reformatory, plus a brainy 8-year-old — as they set out from Nebraska in June, 1954, in an old Studebaker in pursuit of a better future. If this book were set today, their

constant detours and U-turns would send GPS into paroxysms of navigational recalculations. But hitch onto this delightful tour de force and you'll be pulled straight through to the end, helpless against the inventive exuberance of Towles' storytelling. Presenter Susan Merrill

• • • • •

ZOOM LINK:

[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322
 Passcode: 472984

September 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
27 10:00 Love Walk 2023 11:00 Mirrors and Windows	28	29 7:30 Tuesday Walking Group	30 8:30 Men's Group 6:30 Adult Choir	31 7:30 Thursday Walking Group	1 4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	2
3 10:30 Holding It Together 12:00 Drop-In Support Group	4	5 8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting	6 8:30 Men's Group 10:45 Humanism Discussion Group 6:30 Adult Choir	7 8:00 Thursday Walking Group 7:00 Singing Meditation	8 4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	9 9:30 Estate Planning Workshop 3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle 7:00 Welcome Andou-St. Fort Family!
10 10:30 There's a River Flowing: Are You In? 12:00 Drop-In Support Group 12:30 Book Group	11 6:00 Women's Circle	12 8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 6:00 Bending the Arc Taskforce	13 8:30 Men's Group 12:00 Art & Aesthetics Team 4:30 Ministry Council Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir	14 8:00 Thursday Walking Group 9:30 Men's Circle of Trust 10:30 Writers' Group 2:00 Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 Worship Team Meeting	15 4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	16 9:00 Building and Grounds Workday
17 10:30 Radical Welcome 12:00 Artist Reception: Renee Weilman 12:30 Family Ministry Monthly Meeting	18 7:00 Citizens' Climate Lobby – Nevada County Chapter	19 8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 5:15 Nisenan Project Team Meeting	20 8:30 Men's Group 1:00 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:00 Justice Team Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir	21 8:00 Thursday Walking Group 10:00 Greeter Meeting	22 4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	23
24 10:30 Awake at the Wheel: Remembering Who You Are 12:15 Sample Soul Matters Circles	25	26 8:00 Tuesday Walking Group 6:30 Sample Soul Matters Circles	27 8:30 Men's Group 2:00 Membership Team Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir	28 8:00 Thursday Walking Group 10:30 Writers' Group	29 4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	30



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

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Siobhan Boylan,
Administrative Assistant

Toby Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

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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](#)

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