

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

December 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 13 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

DECEMBER THEME: *The Gift of Mystery*

December 3 *Each Known. Each a Mystery*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa;

Carol Nimick, Worship Associate

None of us is ever completely known by another person, and some aspects of ourselves will remain a mystery, even to those who love us dearly. But the willingness to know each other meaningfully, and to be known meaningfully, is key to embodying Beloved Community together and to finding ourselves at home in the world. This Sunday, we settle into the mystery as we reach for a bit of the knowing, welcoming UUCM's newest members in the process.

Dec. 10 *Singing the Mystery: A Singing Meditation*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Toby Thomas-Rose, UUCM

Musicians and You, with Worship Associate

Tracy Pepper

Our annual December meditation service once again takes the form of a singing meditation circle – singing into silence into singing into silence, in a deepening rhythm. Whether you choose to sing, or hum, or let the sound wash over you, come enter the mystery and magic of the moment. Take a breath before the holiday rush takes hold.

(Note: We will repeat each chant or song many times. Some people find this soothing and transcendent. And other people... not so much. Just wanted you to know.)

Dec. 17

Faith In Mystery

Sophia & Randy McKean, Worship Associates

Often, faith is not something we as Unitarian Universalists recognize as part of our religious experience. This Sunday, we'll ask each other about our relationships to faith—times that we put our trust in the mysterious and unprovable—and explore what faith can feel and look like for us.

December 21 *Solstice Celebration - 7:00 pm*

Beth Karow, Rev. Kevin Tarsa, and company

Our annual Solstice Eve Celebration aligns the rhythms of our hearts and our spirits with the rhythms of the earth and sky. Come, center yourself in the midst of the holiday hustle. Singing, silence, candlelight, fire, and some hot, spiced cider guide us through this turning edge of the solar year.

You are invited to bring a simple refreshment to share.

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From the Minister

Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

One of my favorite songs for 20+ years has been *Surrender* by Annie Burns and sung by The Burns Sisters (3 of 12 talented and artful Burns siblings). "I surrender to the mystery, I awaken in the beauty," they sing, in increasingly energized close harmony.

Now, mind you, at a conscious level I'm not by nature a fan of surrendering myself to things. For all the acquiescing I learned to do outwardly to get by in life, underneath it all I'm rather stubborn about holding on to what I think I can control, especially if surrender means I would have to change in a significant internal way.

I do, however, feel that I have a decent life-long working relationship with mystery, this month's theme. To be exact, the December theme is "the gift of mystery."

The Catholicism within which I developed early in life not only celebrated and embodied mystery, it pretty much demanded that one embrace mystery rather than knowing or answers. I find it difficult to get very far into Catholic theology before encountering an obstacle that requires intellectual or emotional surrender to the will of God and/or to the mystery of God's ways. In the end, neither of these matched my own theology, perceptions, ideas, experiences, and intuitions, but I have retained a deep appreciation of mystery in more general terms.

For whatever combination of reasons, I am often comfortable with the knowledge that there are things I can't ever know or understand. I don't feel a need to fill the gaps with explanations, though I trust that there are explanations, ultimately, and am delighted when I do discover them. This allows me to stay quite open to other people's less traditional experiences and perceptions without needing to agree with their explanations.

Reading Alan Watts' book, "The Wisdom of Insecurity," years ago was both affirming and life changing in this regard. En route to helping his readers to live not in the past or future but in the present moment, Watts taught what was then known as "Eastern" wisdom, that true certainty and security can come only from recognizing and accepting that impermanence and insecurity are the inescapable nature and essence of human existence, and that we suffer when we believe otherwise.

Thus, Annie Burns' sung invitation to "surrender to the mystery," and so to "awaken in the beauty."

But surrendering to "the mystery" in the way the song invites, the gift of mystery, for me, goes beyond mere tolerance of a lack of information and certainty. To surrender to mystery, in this sense, is to let go into a wordless, transcendent not knowing, to experience it viscerally, to float, for time, in the unknown and ungraspable, and to be buoyed by it. I get there most readily through the experience of singing or making music, especially with others. Especially repetitive chanting.

For me, this vague yet visceral experience of mystery is an important part of what the winter holidays and holy days invite and offer each year. The darkness of the season, the accompanying introspection, the life reviewing that takes place amid the pressures and joys of expected connection with family and loved ones, the turning of the year and the possibility of resolutions, the candlelight, the rituals, the food attached to memory, the stories...they can lead to yet more grasping, or they can lead one to an easing, to a surprisingly sustaining letting go.

This December, may you know, in moments, the gift of mystery, whatever that looks and sounds and feels like to you.

With care,

- Rev. Kevin

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

*Rev. Kevin's office hours are usually held
Tuesday through Thursday afternoons.*

Email Admin@uugrassvalley.org
or call the office at (530) 274-1675
to schedule an appointment





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

Board of Trustees

COLLABORATIVE OWNERSHIP MAKES US STRONGER

In this time of quickening energy toward the close of the year, with more events and opportunities for UUCM's members and friends to get involved, I'm noting an abundance of collaborative ownership all around. This may be helpful to understanding the energy generated toward the shared Ministry and Governance goals, growing communal care, creating more generosity, and helping to chart the path ahead for the future of UUCM. We are stronger together, in collaboration.

This year, the UUCM governance model has been moving away from operating in separate but equal silos to a more joyful and supportive hybrid model that brings leadership together in reach of their shared goals. This has been an experiment from the start, with no one on the Board knowing for sure how a hybrid model would actually work out.

Collaborative leadership is happening. Two new teams, Stewardship Guidance and Leadership Council, serve to create opportunities for the ministry and governance sides to do joyful work with more onramps for members to help with tasks, more communication, and increased energy toward their shared, mission-focused goals. I expect these collaborations will gradually create a culture of citizen ownership in UUCM community life.

Over the last year, members were invited to offer guidance and feedback for crafting a Fundraiser and Events with Sales policy that aims to be useful and supportive. To those who participated, thank you! We especially wish to thank the Membership Team for their help and ongoing counsel as we experiment with best practices and good policy.

The Board wishes to express deep gratitude to the UUCM Justice partners who, with their invitations to both UUCM members and the wider community, offered communal care to welcome and resettle the Haitian Andou-St. Fort family. That care continues to grow in a network of generosity. Of special note is the soon-to-be-launched UUA Faithify campaign to raise money for the family's rental housing costs. You may already know that Faithify is a powerful crowdsourcing application similar to Go Fund Me. Faithify is different in that it is UUA-based and reaches national and international Unitarian Universalists looking to donate to a justice cause that reflects their UU values. Faithify gives UUCM members a powerful

opportunity to increase generosity by sharing the campaign link via social media and email among their family and friends. The campaign will run for 45 days through the holiday giving season and into January. Look for the link to come soon! We are stronger together!

OPEN QUESTIONS

COME TO ONE OF OUR ANNUAL OPEN QUESTIONS GATHERINGS:

On **December 5 and 10**, you are invited to take part in the Open Questions events as we ask, listen, and discover together what UUCM can be for each other and for the wider community. This will help to inform the Board for clarity on the path ahead.

Please join one or both events!

Join via Zoom on **Tuesday, December 5 @ 6:30 PM**

Join us **in person** in the **Sanctuary** after our service on
Sunday, December 10 @ 12:15 PM
with a simple lunch of soup, bread and cookies!

RSVP HERE:

<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/open-questions/>

At the close of the calendar year, here's to celebrating and lifting up the abundant ways that collaborative ownership energizes UUCM for communal care, increased generosity, and clarity as we face the unknown together.

With strength in collaboration,

René



Laura Harter
Leader, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

Membership Team

Want to Learn More About UUCM and Get Connected?

CHECK OUT UU 101 AND STARTING POINT!

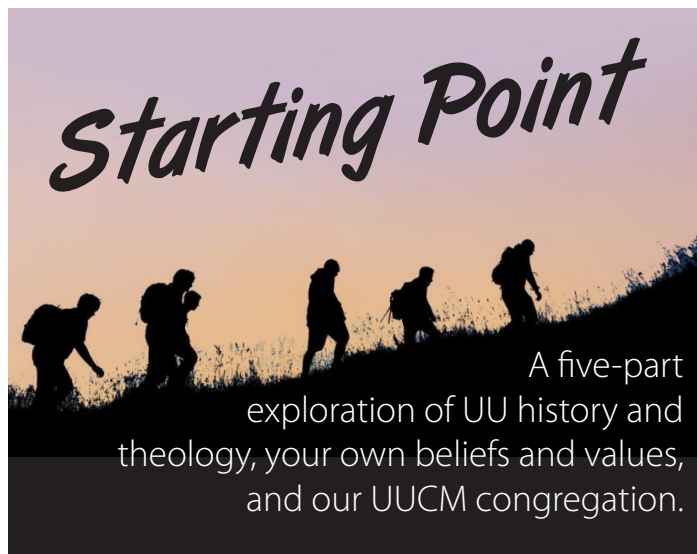
If you've been attending services or checking out the website and are curious to find out more, or if you are already a member and wanting to renew your sense of community and of this religious tradition, join Rev. Kevin, other newer folks, and existing members for meaningful and fun connection as well as information. Come first for "UU 101," a single, interactive, introductory session. We'll explore the history, principles, and sources of Unitarian Universalism and our congregation's mission statement. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion, because, after all, UU is a denomination where questioning is highly encouraged!

If that session piques your interest, you are invited to continue with a deeper look – **Starting Point**, five rich sessions of connection and learning. (This part of the series asks for a commitment to attend all five sessions.) Throughout both UU 101 and Starting Point, we'll approach Unitarian Universalism and membership at UUCM as ongoing journeys. And rather than simply hearing about Unitarian Universalism, participants will have a chance to experience Unitarian Universalism, with awareness that each person brings important insight, experiences and perspectives to this shared journey. Starting Point is highly recommended if you are thinking of becoming a member of UUCM.

We'll be holding **UU 101** sessions after church on the first Sunday of each month. You can sign up in advance by emailing Kate Canan at UU101@uugrassvalley.org.

The next **Starting Point** series will be Tuesday afternoons, January 9, 16, 23, 30, and February 6, from 1:00-3:00 PM. It is wonderful to have members mixed in with new folks for a variety of perspectives. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Kate at startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org.

Please reach out at membership@uugrassvalley.org if you have ideas to share with us.



OUR NEXT SERIES BEGINS

Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30, and February 6,
from 1:00-3:00 PM

Please email startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org
to sign up and/or get info, or use QR code ►►



Sermon-Writing Seminar

Got a message (or sermon) in you?

Rev. Kevin will once again facilitate a lay sermon-writing seminar for 6-8 people beginning early in the new year. Using a rich and connective process developed by the Rev. Erika Hewitt, each person will gradually develop a complete sermon over eight sessions, with support, feedback and encouragement from the rest of the circle. Then, willing members will work with Worship Team members and our Music Director to develop a service around the sermon and its theme.

This will be a significant and meaningful commitment, as the group will meet every two weeks for three hours January to April. (The meeting time will be determined after the group membership is known.) The experience will offer a space of learning and self-discovery as well as a chance to build deep connections en route to deep expression in one's authentic voice. Our hope is that participants will feed ready to share these sermons/messages on a Sunday morning, and so benefit the Community as well.

Intrigued? Interested? (We hope so!) Have questions about it?
Contact Rev. Kevin: minister@uugrassvalley.org



Words from the Worship Team

Cheryl Morris and Carol Nimick
Worship Team Co-Leaders
Worship@uugrassvalley.org



Our December theme is "The Gift of Mystery." One thing I have noticed about things that are mysterious is that the harder I try to "solve" them the more elusive they become. Sometimes I need to let go of trying and let them be what they are, mysteries. One of the biggest mysteries is how certain moments in my ordinary life and experience suddenly become illuminated, and I am carried outside myself and my preoccupations. I am unexpectedly moved by beauty and a sense of expansiveness and connection. It is vividly intense and real, and then the moment fades and what is left is the memory. It's not something I can make happen, but I can intentionally create conditions in which it is more likely to occur.

Perhaps we have all had moments during worship services in which this experience happens. Sometimes it's individual and goes unnoticed by others, and sometimes it's communal and easily observed, and almost tangible. I have noticed it happening all around me in services such as the singing meditation, or Dia de los Muertos rituals, or when Kevin leads us into deep silent places.

As the worship team crafts a service, we focus on assembling the individual segments without much sense of the finished whole. And, mysteriously, we are sometimes stunned as the actual service unfolds in ways that are more moving and powerful than we could have anticipated.

We'd love to know what moves you, or stirs you to action, or creates those mysterious moments of luminosity and brilliance. We can't set out to make them happen, but we can intentionally work to create services in which they may arise.

May December have moments of mystery for all of us, and may we be open to them and cherish them.



2023-24 Soul Matters Themes The Gift of...

December	Mystery
January	Liberating Love
February	Justice and Equity
March	Transformation
April	Interdependence
May	Pluralism
June	Renewal

Upcoming Services

...Continued from Page 1

December 24

Christmas Eve - Morning and Evening services

10:30 AM **The Christmas Story: All-Ages Christmas Service**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Lindsay Duncel,
Worship Associate

Join us for this engaging and hands-on retelling of the Christmas story where we'll get a chance to take part in a spur-of-the-moment Christmas Pageant. Will you choose to be one of the three kings? A cow in the manger? Or just enjoy the proceedings and lend your voice to the songs?

8:00 PM **Christmas Eve by Candlelight**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Lindsay Duncel,
Worship Associate

We'll gather on this special evening to share age-old songs and readings as we reflect on the message of Christmas for our times. We'll conclude our time together with the annual ritual of passing the light from one to another as we sing together.

Dec. 31 **Past, Present, and Future: Sharing in the Mystery**
Sophia McKean and Cheryl Morris, Worship
Associates with Anita Wald-Tuttle

On the brink of 2024 we gather to reflect on the past year and anticipate the coming one.

*A tradition since 2005,
our Cider Sunday service will be
informal, reflective, and celebratory.
Please join us!*



CHRISTMAS DAY POTLUCK!

**Monday, December 25, 2023
at 1:00 P.M.**

**Join Rev. Kevin & your UUCM Family
All are welcome!**

**Carols and Christmas Stories
around the fire with Rev. Kevin Tarsa
after the feast!**

SIGN UP HERE:

**uugrassvalley.org/christmas-potluck/
Be sure to list your food offering(s)**





A & A Team

Linda Siska, Leader,
Art & Aesthetics Team
art@uugrassvalley.org

Final Art Show of 2023

The UUCM Library and Art Gallery is now featuring the artwork of our own Ruth Ghio. Ruth has a wide range of talents and subject matters, including bold acrylic paintings in both realistic and abstract styles, large pottery pieces, and ceramic masks and plaques. ***Ruth's official reception has been scheduled for January 7*** (after the busy holiday season), but her artwork will be on display now through mid-January. Stop by, have a look, and leave her a message in the guest book.

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.



Endowment

Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org

Simple Gifts Thank Yous

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

Joel Houtman and Cheryl Morris

who each donated in celebration of their recent birthdays!
*Each gift brings us closer to the required \$50,000 base from which
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!



*Simple Gifts...Planting
Seeds for the Future*



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, Robin Hart, Carol Hyndman,
Anne Lyon, Cheryl Morris



Lay Pastoral Care Team

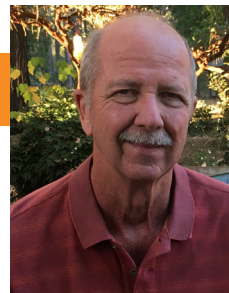
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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 you can email the whole team:
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

Bob Miller, Sometimes A Mystery

A Profile by Jenny Dewey

As a newcomer to the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains, I entered the lobby looking for a friendly face. I'm shy by nature, so going up to a person and starting a conversation was out of the question. I hoped for an invitation: a smile or a welcoming glance.

Bob Miller was one of the first people I noticed and right away he scared me. His face was without distinct expression. He was taller than everybody else and moved with authority, as though he knew something no one else knew. I stared until he disappeared into the Sanctuary.

I breathed a sigh of relief and told myself it was silly to be afraid, especially in this particular church.

Sunday after Sunday, I watched Bob operate the audio-visual equipment. His face revealed nothing of his personality.

Bob, together with Joel Houtman, offered an introduction to particle physics. I eagerly joined up though I knew nothing about the subject (and still don't), but it fascinated me. In this venue, in this context, I saw Bob in a new way.

Joel and Bob brought tanks of water, tennis balls, slats of wood, and other paraphernalia to set up experiments. They demonstrated how various obscure theories work. Bob did most of the talking. He drew pictures on the board to explain mathematical concepts we struggled to fathom. I was

startled by the changes I saw. Bob came alive. He was patient with the many questions about mathematical equations, although I'm sure few of us in the room understood his explanations.

I'll never forget how the sessions ended. One afternoon when all of us were gathered around the table in the "ramp" room (officially called the Channing Room), Bob said our meetings would be suspended until, in his

words, "We see what this virus does." He was referring to Covid.

The most significant experience I've had with Bob is how much help he gave me preparing for my sister's memorial. I wasn't afraid of him anymore, but I'd never asked him for a favor.

I learned about the true Bob, the person behind the sometimes difficult to interpret exterior. His generosity made the memorial a success. He managed every detail with grace and gentle concern. I knew there was not one thing he wasn't prepared to do to make the experience a good one for all concerned.

These days when I go to church for a Sunday service I look around for Bob and I smile. Sometimes he smiles back and sometimes he

doesn't. Whatever the expression on his face on any given Sunday, to me he is no longer scary.



Robert Miller, hard at work at the UUCM Sound Board

Justice News and Activities

Andou/St. Fort Family Reunited!

Steve Temple
UUCM Justice Team Member

After more than 3 months of separation, Nazaire arrived November 4 and was reunited with Moustapha, Daniel, and Samuel. Everyone is adjusting to life, school, and endless bureaucratic paperwork (work authorization, public benefits, health, driver's license, auto insurance) in Grass Valley and the U.S.

Thanks to the generosity of UUCM members, we were able to purchase Nazaire's ticket, a small used car, and auto insurance. And thanks again to the small group of members and friends who helped so dependably with school transportation for Daniel and Samuel. We are now trying to amplify our financial support effort to include the UU Faithify effort. Faithify is a crowdsource app (like Go Fund Me), which is UUA-based and powerfully reaches national and international Unitarian Universalists who are looking to



Hospitality House

Keith Johnson, UUCM Justice Team Co-Leader

The UUCM dinner crew for Hospitality House received a special gift while serving dinner on November 17. As she was waiting to be served, a guest handed a "thank you" card to Corrie Silva. Inside the card were greetings and thanks for all the work we do from several Hospitality House guests. The entire dinner crew, consisting of Corrie Silva, Lisa Haden, Gabe Ross, Alice

Johnson, and Keith Johnson, was touched by this gesture of love and appreciation.



Share the Plate

UUCM's October *Share the Plate* recipient, [Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release](#) will receive \$831.37, 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 November *Share the Plate* recipient is [Bright Futures for Youth](#).



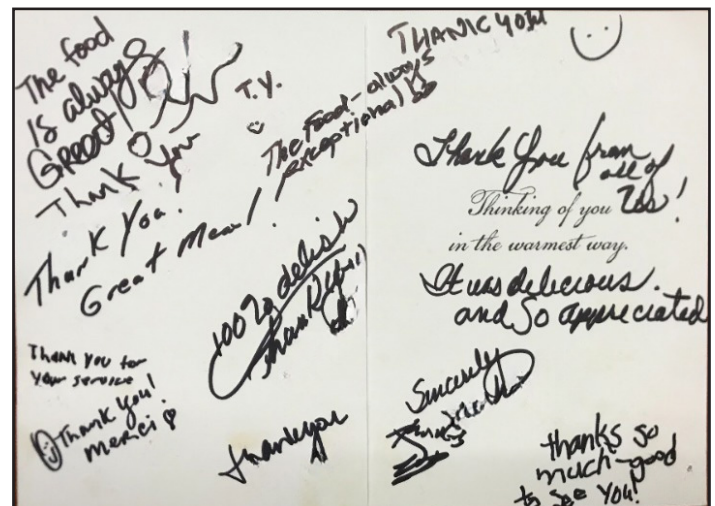
COMMUNITY
BEYOND VIOLENCE
ENGAGE • EMPOWER • PREVENT

Our December *Share the Plate* recipient is [Community Beyond Violence](#).

Founded in 1978, [Community Beyond Violence](#) offers direct services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and provides education and prevention

services to our community. Stephanie Fischer, executive director of CBV, will speak at our Sunday service on December 3 concerning the mission and recent accomplishments of CBV. Stephanie was also a featured speaker at the Transgender Remembrance Day celebration on November 18 at UUCM.

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



Stop the Mine Task Force Update

By Martha Turner, Task Force Member

Thanks to the UUCM members and friends who have worked hard to oppose the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine and continue to be concerned, there is big news:

Along with 26 other organizations, we contributed to the unanimous vote by the County Planning Commission to recommend the Board of Supervisors NOT approve reopening the Mine and NOT certify the FEIR for the project.

For the past two years, Jim Bair and the UUCM Stop the Mine Task Force have actively worked to keep the mine from reopening. More than 70 UUCM members and friends voted to create this task force; here are just a few of their efforts:

- Writing more than 400 letters to the Nevada County Planning Department, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors (BOS).
- Gathering hundreds of petition signatures from the citizens of Nevada County and business owners who oppose the mine.
- Meeting and dialoging with elected Nevada County officials.
- Holding a public forum at UUCM that drew a standing-room-only attendance
- Delivering well-researched public comments to the county about the negative impacts the mine would have on the health of our citizens, the environment, and the economic health of the county.

We celebrate being part of the success so far. Our efforts have made an impact! The Stop the Mine Task Force heartily thanks you!

So, while the formally approved UUCM Stop the Mine Task Force will not seek renewal for 2024, we MUST CONTINUE our opposition. We have worked with MineWatch, and they need our continued support. Rise Gold has not given up and has resorted to a fabricated claim of “vested rights” to try to force the county to approve their application (without a certified FEIR or government regulation) and will undoubtedly take their future efforts to the courts.

There is still much we can do individually. We urge you to:

1. Sign up for the MineWatch newsletter by going to <https://www.minewatchnc.org/>. This website has a wealth of information and will continue to be a source for calls to action.



2. Support MineWatch financially by donating at https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=TVNUXWDH2UBNG.
3. Sign the open letter (before December 4) to the Board of Supervisors found on the MineWatch website (<https://www.minewatchnc.org/>) that expresses opposition to the mine's claim of vested rights.
4. Attend the BOS meeting on December 13 at 9 AM at the Rood Center, Nevada City. This meeting will only be addressing the petition for “Vested Rights”, not the use permit for the Mine or the FEIR. Let's show our elected officials that we still care!
5. Sign up as a reader for December 13 by emailing Jim at StoptheMine@uugrassvalley.org to receive a 3- minute script. This a way to present our arguments against vested rights in the limited time.
6. Attend a BOS meeting in 2024 when they will hear final arguments on the FEIR.
7. Keep your pencil sharpened and ready if another letter writing campaign becomes strategic.

Vive la résistance!

- Martha Turner, Anita Wald-Tuttle & Jim Bair

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 our administrative assistant at Admin@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.

Make Connections at UUCM

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!



WALKING GROUP

8:30 AM, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
OFFSITE

We meet on **Tuesdays** at the Wolf Creek Trail/Northstar Mining Museum parking area, and on **Thursdays** at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley. Be sure to ask our Administrative Assistant (Admin@uugrassvalley.org) 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

WEDNESDAYS FROM 8:30 - 10:30 AM AT UUCM

Men gather to enjoy each other's company.

Contact for the group: Men@uugrassvalley.org

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

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

Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org

SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE

SECOND SATURDAYS, 3:00 - 4:30 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM

All are welcome to explore spiritual questions, with open hearts and minds.

Contact Spirituality@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.

The topic for our next meeting on Wednesday, December 6 at 10:45 AM at UUCM will be "Humanism and Artificial Intelligence".

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

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, December 11 at the home of member Beth Rose**. It's our annual **Holiday Potluck!** We'll share a tradition holiday meal -- bring your favorite dishes! We will send a reminder to the Women's Group email list a week ahead of the meeting for RSVPs. We'll also provide directions to the event, and have an opportunity to arrange car pools.

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.

December's Mystery

By Cheryl Spaulding,
UUCM Family Ministry Team Member

The winter solstice season is dark and mysterious. During the final days of our calendar year, we gather to enact our rituals, bringing to and sharing with each other sources of light and stories of the season. These rituals, sources of light, and seasonal stories help to demystify and give meaning to these otherwise dark days.

This year there are a few opportunities for the children and youth of UUCM to take part in rituals and gatherings intended for all ages. On Thursday, December 21, there will be an evening solstice service at UUCM from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. This service may be especially interesting for older children and youth who want to know more about why the world's religions so often have holidays and celebrations during this dark time of year. It may provide you and your children with an opportunity to reflect on the somewhat mysterious origins of our more modern-day seasonal traditions. On Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve), there will be an all-ages service in the morning at 10:30 AM, our normal time for the Sunday service and Kids Connection. *There will be no Kids Connection program upstairs for the children on that Christmas Eve Sunday.* The members of the Worship Team planning this service are doing so with the children's needs and interests at this time of year squarely in mind.

We hope to see you and your children in the sanctuary downstairs at 10:30 AM on Christmas Eve.

Finally, during other Sundays in December, upstairs in Kids Connection, we will weave in seasonal activities to engage the children while their grownups take part in more mature versions of the season's offerings downstairs. We look forward to spending time with your children during this special, and mysterious, time of year.

ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH:

Solstice Service:

Thursday, December 21, 7:00 – 8:00 PM at UUCM

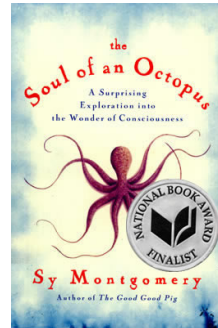
All Ages Christmas Eve Service:

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

2nd 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



Saturday, December 9, at 1:30 PM*

***Soul of an Octopus A Surprising
Exploration of the Wonder of
Consciousness***

by Sy Montgomery, 224 pages,
Presenter: Martha Turner

NOTE:

***Meeting Date and Time Changed to
Accommodate the annual UUCM
"Open Questions" Soup Lunch***

The author explores these complex, intelligent and spirited creatures which have distinct personalities. There is growing scientific appreciation of consciousness in this sentient ocean animal that has "venom like a snake, a beak like a parrot and ink like an old fashioned pen."

ZOOM LINK:

[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

UPCOMING SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CHOICES:

*Short book descriptions are available in the
October 2023 Mountain Chalice*

January 14, 2024 - Dinners with Ruth:

A Memoir on the Power of Friendships

by Nina Totenberg, 320 pages, Presenter: Judith Gropp

February 11, 2024 - Block Seventeen

by Kimiko Guthrie, Presenter: Jo Waters

March 10, 2024 - Entangled Life

by Merlin Sheldrake, Presenter: Cynthia Burton

April 14, 2024 - Harlem Shuffle

by Colson Whitehead, Presenter: Cheryl Morris

May 12, 2024 - Chances Are

by Richard Russo, 320 pages, Presenter: Keith Johnson

June 9, 2024 - Bury My Heart at Chuck E. Cheese

By Tiffany Midge, Presenter: Susan Merrill

December 2023 Calendar of Events at UUCM

For the most current version of the UUCM Monthly Calendar, please click this link: <https://www.uugrassvalley.org/calendar/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10:30 Who's at the Table? 12:15 Worship Brainstorm	27	28 8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	29 8:30 Men's Group 6:30 Adult Choir	30 8:30 Thursday Walking Group	1 4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	2
3 10:30 Each Known. Each a Mystery 12:30 UU101	4 4:00 Stop the Mine Task Force	5 8:30 Tuesday Walking Group 4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting 6:30 Open Questions: Zoom session	6 8:30 Men's Group 10:45 Humanism Discussion Group 6:30 Adult Choir	7 8:30 Thursday Walking Group 7:00 Singing Meditation	8 4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	9 3:00 Spirituality Sharing Circle
10 10:30 Singing the Mystery: A Singing Meditation 12:15 Open Questions: Soup + Discussion 12:30 Book Group	11 6:00 Women's Circle	12 8:30 Tuesday Walking Group 6:00 Bending the Arc Taskforce	13 8:30 Men's Group 12:00 Art & Aesthetics Team 3:00 Ministry Council Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir	14 8:30 Thursday Walking Group 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 12:30 Young(ish) Adult Brunch 12:30 Family Ministry Monthly Meeting	18 7:00 Citizens' Climate Lobby – Nevada County Chapter	19 8:30 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 8:30 Thursday Walking Group 7:00 Winter Solstice Celebration	22 4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	23
24 10:30 Christmas Eve All Ages Service 8:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed – Christmas Holiday 1:00 Christmas Day Carols & Potluck	26 8:30 Tuesday Walking Group	27 8:30 Men's Group 2:00 Membership Team Meeting 6:30 Adult Choir	28 8:30 Thursday Walking Group 10:30 Writers' Group	29 4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	30
31 10:30 Cider Sunday	1 Office Closed – New Year's Day 4:00 Stop the Mine Task Force	2 8:30 Tuesday Walking Group 4:00 Parish Care Team Meeting	3 8:30 Men's Group 10:45 Humanism Discussion Group 6:30 Adult Choir	4 8:30 Thursday Walking Group 7:00 Singing Meditation	5 4:15 UUCM String Ensemble	6



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: 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

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 TO 5:00 PM

(Our Administrative Assistant is available remotely on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.)

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*

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Minister@uugrassvalley.org

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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*