

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

January 2024

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

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

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

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

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

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

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

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

JANUARY THEME: *The Gift of Liberating Love*

January 7 *Love Can Be a Driving Force for Positive Change
in the World*

Cheryl Morris, Carol Nimick and Tracy Pepper,
Worship Associates

This service is a joyful and inclusive gathering that explores the power of love to liberate hearts and minds. It acknowledges the diverse beliefs, needs, and ways of seeing the world of its participants while emphasizing the common values of love, compassion, and justice.

January 14 *Failing Forward: Shining with Integrity*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa,
with Carol Nimick, Worship Associate

The "One-ness" in us, according to Enneagram wisdom, latches on to our desire to be good, to live up to high ethical standards, and to influence the world around us for the better. It's a lot to take on. This Sunday, still in the season of New Year's resolutions, can we loosen our grip on our resolutions and find a liberating way to hang on to the intuitive urges beneath our resolve?

January 21 *Be-Loved*

Rev. Kevin, with Cheryl Morris, Worship Associate

The notion of "Beloved Community" holds a rather mystical aura, even for those familiar with the term. Coined and conceived by Grass Valley's own Josiah Royce, and picked up, developed, and

amplified by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we ask, "What could this idea of Beloved Community possibly have to do with us, here, and now?"

January 28 *Masking Tapes: The You Beneath What You Do*

Rev. Kevin,
with Sophia McKean, Worship Associate

This next in Rev. Kevin's series of Enneagram-rooted services invites us to explore the "3-ness" in each of us, and the tendency to base our value in what we do or how we appear. Rooted in affirming the inherent worth and dignity of each person, we'll consider our own value, and let the journey inform our final choice of our word for the year.

(You are invited to choose a word for the year, a word, idea, concept, or value to journey with and to be in conversation with throughout 2024.)

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Happy New Year! I say it with both conviction and hope.

Once again, I invite you to journey with a word for this coming year, a word or concept that seems to be calling to you, or nudging you, or tugging at you, or perhaps quietly whispering an invitation to you. I encourage you to take some time during January to let possibilities surface, to spend some time with them, and to let the needed word rise to the top. In the final January service, I'll invite you to share your word choice.

My word for this past year was "spaciousness." I was seeking spaciousness in my days, in my spirit, in my expectations, in life in general. My desire to travel with the possibility of spaciousness was rooted in the pressures of the past several years navigating the pandemic and the tension in the nation, and it was heightened by the knowledge that I would have a rare opportunity for spaciousness during the gift of the spring sabbatical/renewal leave.

Throughout the year, the presence of my chosen word helped me to build more room into my days for a walk, a cup of tea by the window, a chance to sit still and quietly for a meditation, or to enjoy longer reading session with an engaging book. It helped me, one small decision at a time, to not pack my days so full. I didn't always honor it, but my commitment to let "spaciousness" be my travel companion for the entire year helped me much more often to call up a sacred "no" in order to say a deeper "yes" to what I was truly needing.

I love hearing your stories throughout the year of how your relationship with your word has been shaping your perspectives and your behaviors. I love hearing how your understanding is unfolding and evolving, often surprising you with unexpected awareness and insight. And, sometimes, uncomfortable challenge.

I know, it can seem like a simple, surfacy thing to choose a word for the year, a bit artificial or destined for abandonment like so many new year's resolutions, but as with so much, this spiritual practice depends upon what we make of it.

I will try to better support you in this year, offering chances to remember your word, first of all, and to share what you are experiencing during your journey.

And I'd still love to hear your stories about your journey with your 2023 word.

All of this will arise within our January theme: "the gift of liberating love." Now, there's a theme to take us into the new year! In truth, it is the theme underlying many of the words that you choose.

Here's to the journey before us. May it indeed be a journey together that liberates more of our own love, as well as the love in our community.

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





Board of Trustees

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

At the top of my list of things of fresh collaborations to celebrate are the members - new and existing - bringing supportive change to our UUCM community life. This month brings us to the mid-point of operations for the 2023/24 fiscal year, and I'm looking forward to presenting the President's Report at the **Mid-Year Community Business Meeting on January 21 at 1:00 PM**. I hope you'll be there!

During this year's meeting the Board will be asking membership to approve two Justice Task Forces in their renewed commitments along with two revisions to the UUCM bylaws.

The first bylaw revision is to **Section 6.4: Vacancies in Elected Positions**. *It currently reads:*

"If a vacancy occurs in midterm for an elected position the Board may appoint a replacement until the completion of the term for that vacated position."

The proposed change adds a clarifying sentence:

"If the appointed person is completing more than half of the term it will be considered as their first term served."

The second revision removes **Section 9.1: Committee on Shared Ministry**, which requires an established ongoing committee. The proposal is to remove this bylaw's requirement.

The section currently reads:

"The purpose of the Committee on Shared Ministry is to strengthen the quality of the shared and mutual ministry within the Community. On behalf of, and in light of the Community's mission, the Committee on Shared Ministry systematically assesses, reports on, and makes recommendations regarding the effectiveness of the Community's entire ministry in all of its interrelated facets. The Committee on Shared Ministry consists of the Minister and three (3) Members of the Community appointed to staggered three-year terms. Candidates are nominated by the Minister and appointed by the Board. Committee members cannot concurrently serve on the Board or in a staff position. Committee members cannot serve two (2) consecutive terms unless their first appointment was to fill an unfinished term and the duration of the unfinished term was less than one (1) year."

In the last several years, the Board has been unable to fill many committee positions due to lengthy time commitments.

We have found that creating ad hoc committees with a limited purpose and scope of work makes it easier to recruit volunteers and is more rewarding for the members. Rather than having an established and ongoing Committee on Shared Ministry with a 3-year term, each year the Board would create an ad hoc committee to assess a specific area of our community's shared ministry. The Board and minister would decide each year what area to assess and look for people who have interest or skills in the area being evaluated. Past areas of evaluation have included: communications and triennial minister evaluations. The ad hoc committee would provide a written assessment, complete the evaluation in less than a year, and then disband.

We encourage your comments and suggestions on these proposed change prior to our Mid-Year Community Business Meeting.

Please contact Rene'Wiley at president@uugrassvalley.org or Janet Dunstan at secretary@uugrassvalley.org.

You will find the full current bylaws on our website under Membership/Member Resources near the bottom of the page.

The Board's work is to simplify and strengthen operations, communicate, and carry out the governance goals. As we hold space for each other to be our best in community, it's been a joyful growing experience for me to communicate our efforts and to receive your feedback over these last six months.

With gratitude,

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.



Laura Harter
Leader, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

Membership Team

NEW MEMBER CELEBRATION

On December 3, we were delighted to welcome and recognize eight new members who joined UUCM this past year. Our newest members are pictured below.



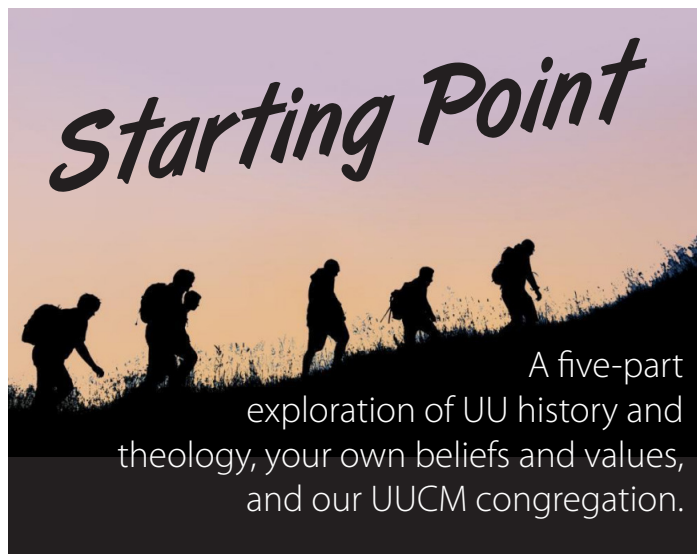
New members with Rev. Kevin, from left to right: Sophia McKean, Cynthia Burton, Barbara Johnson, Sue Gregory, Mark Grove, Cheryl Spaulding, Karl Snyder, and UUCM President Rene Wiley; not pictured Jillian Roberts. We greatly appreciated the heart-felt sharing, gratitude, and contributions that each person shared in this special service. Please be sure to introduce yourself if your paths haven't crossed yet.

SOMETHING NEW – LET'S DO LUNCH!

Join others for a potluck lunch at UUCM. Bring a dish to share and get ready to hang out for pleasant conversation and the opportunity to catch up with new and familiar faces. These once-a-month potlucks for up to 10 people will be held at UUCM at noon. Dates are Monday, January 22, Monday February 12, and Tuesday March 19. It's a lovely way to spend time together – simple and sweet. Sign-ups will be forthcoming, or in the meantime, contact Laura Harter at welcome@uugrassvalley.org for more info.

UU 101

This one-time, no-strings-attached introduction to UU values and history is held after church on the first Sunday of every month. Everyone is welcome, from first time visitors to longtime members. The next UU 101 will be held on Sunday, January 7 from noon to 1:30 PM. Meet in the sanctuary.



STARTING POINT

A new Starting Point series begins **Tuesday, January 9th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM** at UUCM or by Zoom. It continues each Tuesday through February 6th. It is a great way to reflect on your spiritual path and UU journey while you strengthen connections with both newcomers and long-term members.

We cover the following topics in the five sessions:

1. Your Journey: Sharing our stories and spiritual roadmaps
2. The Unitarian Universalist journey and the journey of UUCM
3. Our UU Journey Together: Exploring the sacred path of deep listening
4. Our UU Journey Together: Exploring the path of receiving life's gifts and the path of service
5. Finding Your Journey Group: Exploring the benefits and responsibilities of membership

This series is held three times per year and is highly encouraged for those considering membership. You can learn more about it and sign up here:

<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/starting-point/>.

The Membership Team is excited by all the opportunities for spending meaningful time together. Truly there is something new or familiar to catch your attention. There is always something going on - from the walking group, IFM work days, book groups, potlucks, choir, participating in the worship



Words from the Worship Team

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



If it's true that two heads are better than one, how about 18??? We were thrilled that so many people came to the Worship Team brainstorming session in November. In case you don't know what I'm talking about, brainstorming on the monthly theme is always the start of planning Sunday services. For the past two months we have invited anyone who is interested to brainstorm with us, and we'll continue to hold these open sessions on the last Sunday of the month, starting at 12:15 PM and ending at 1:00 PM.

The next session will be on January 28, brainstorming for the April services. The topic is Interdependence. Taking it one step further this time, this session will lead to yet another opportunity for those curious about how our services are crafted.

Those who wish to continue in the process can join us in February, and so on, as described by Rev. Kevin in the next column. Meanwhile, reflecting the theme of "interdependence," we welcome your contributions in the form of written reflections or service elements such as a chalice lighting or opening words. A favorite poem, song, or piece of art are other possibilities. They don't have to be original, but if they are someone else's work we might need to get permission to use them.

Crafting a service is a fun and rewarding experience that we don't want to keep all to ourselves. Please join us in brainstorming and then, at a future time to be decided, work with us in developing a service and seeing your ideas come to life.

We enter this new year with the hope that many of you will join us in creating thoughtful, challenging, and inspiring services. They are the reason many of us were drawn to UUCM and the reason many of us come back week after week. We believe they are the lifeblood of our community, and that they are enriched by the different points of view, beliefs, and life experiences of those who create them.

Happy New Year!

Design-a-Service

Design a Sunday Service Together from the Ground Up!

By Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Rev. Kevin invites anyone who wishes, to work together to imagine, design, plan, prepare, and implement (with support) the April 7 Sunday service at UUCM, rooted in some way in the theme of "interdependence." The possibilities are wide open!

The process begins with a soup-graced brainstorming session after the service on Sunday, January 28. With Rev. Kevin and some members of the Worship Team, and both onsite and via Zoom, we'll dive into a freewheeling, unencumbered brainstorming around the theme of "interdependence." All are welcome, whether or not you continue with the service planning process. Before the session ends, we'll note any clusters of ideas that are beginning to emerge.

In February, after a chance to mull on the brainstorming ideas, we'll gather to find a clear focus for the April service and to imagine possibilities for what that service might be and include. By early March we'll get way more specific, mapping out the entire service, and then as a team, we'll set it all in motion, inviting any needed participants.

Ever had ideas for what a Sunday service could be or needs to be? Been curious about this whole service planning process? Want to have a great, fun, creative time with others? Looking to give the congregation a wonderful gift?

COME, JOIN IN!

See you at the January 28 Brainstorming. (Or contact Rev. Kevin if you are not able to be there January 28. You can join the process afterward.)



2023-24 Soul Matters Themes



The Gift of...

January
February
March

Liberating Love
Justice and Equity
Transformation

April
May
June

Interdependence
Pluralism
Renewal



A & A Team

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

First Art Show of 2024

From January 18 to March 15, the UUCM Library and Art Gallery will show an exhibit of works from the Visibility Through Art (VTA) project, produced by the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe.

From CHIRP's website: This project was inspired by the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe's desire to engage local artists to create artwork that authentically represents the Nisenan and their rich but nearly forgotten history here in Nevada County. The goal: to create conscientious art pieces that discuss the history and culture of the Original Peoples of this land.

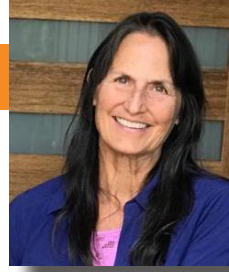
"Giving a non-native artist permission to paint something of cultural importance is a constant struggle and is not to be seen as a "pass" for others to do the same. A Native artist recently asked me how my consent for this project might affect her and other Native artists who fight to keep cultural content in their own hands. And, while I don't have an easy answer, I do see the importance of making it clear; this is a very special collaboration, and it would not have worked without the Tribal Council having the final say in the details of the pieces."

Much of today's conversation revolves around the gold rush and its time and culture, and our community knows very little about the ancient Native American society of people who lived here long before the coming of the pioneers and settlers. Our deepest hope is to bring about awareness of local historic and current issues through the medium of art.

The Artworks produced through VTA are gifted to the Tribe and CHIRP by participating artists and become part of CHIRP's growing collection."

There will be a reception for UUCM members and friends after Sunday service on January 28, at 12:30 PM, in the Library.

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



The Endowment Committee received an anonymous Simple Gifts donation in December - Thanks to whomever you are!

The Simple Gifts "Birthday" contributions have been coming in steadily, and we are excited to let you know that we are just a bit over \$1000 away from our \$50,000 base from which we can start using earnings towards 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!

Share the Plate

UUCM's November **Share the Plate** recipient, [Bright Futures for Youth](#) will receive **\$893.43**, 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 December **Share the Plate** recipient, [Community Beyond Violence](#).



Our January **Share the Plate** recipient is [Sierra Roots](#).

Sierra Roots is committed to providing a secure and safe place for people who are chronically homeless. The organization employs a relationship-based approach that identifies individual needs and preserves the dignity of each person. The goal is a community in which homeless people experience inclusion rather than isolation and where they can progress toward health and self-reliance. Several UUCM members are active participants in the cold weather shelter program managed by Sierra Roots.

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



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

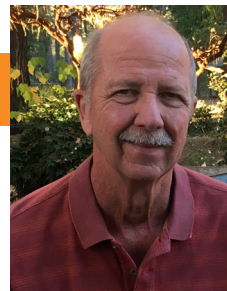
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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

A Profile on Remembering

by Jenny Dewey

Words carry weight. The word-of-the-month in our UUCM community is considered, perceived, debated, and perhaps one we apply to our every-day lives. I remember having trouble with the word AWE. What experience in my life ever brought me to feel awe?

The question hung in my mind and pestered me because I could not find an answer.

Then I remembered a day in Antarctica when I was out on the ice with a scientific team. The team was doing under-ice research. I was a tag-along; allowed to be there for the experience. The small ship that dropped us off disappeared so the engines would not disturb under-ice animals. I walked away, across the plain of ice, toward the place where (or so I felt) the curve of the Earth began. In that hour I felt small. Smaller than a grain of sand. And I also felt a deep sense of awe. I was not afraid.

Feeling one with the world of ice, not an intruder or a misplaced-person, was my "awe inspiring moment."

Remembering experiences in life that formed us and made us who we are is a mystery we struggle to define. What is the answer to the mysterious reason, or reasons, we exist at all?

Remembering what happened in the past is a deceptive exercise, a futile search for old meanings, the ancient relics of experiences you've let slide out of mind. Memories are distorted: which are significant?

Chances are events of importance to you don't matter to anybody else.

Examples: the first day of school, first love, first kiss. Our lives assume an unreality, except for those openings we call: remembering.

Trying to remember an experience we know was significant for us often ends in failure. Mysterious resistance envelops us. The basic elements of mystery distort our thinking.

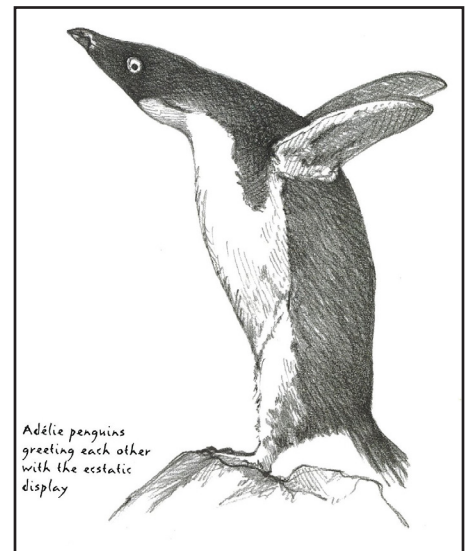
Memories are so often lost in fog, concealed behind shadowy veils. Which memorable moments shaped your thinking, made you older and wiser? Does anyone care besides you?

You care. Your caring sees you through doubts and questioning. Illusive memories assume form and shape: sights, smells, tastes, and sounds.

You have a story to tell.
The fog dissipates and the veil lifts.

The mysterious nature of life remains, and yet we are not afraid.

*The drawings below are from Jenny Dewey's book:
"Antarctic Journal: Four Months at the Bottom of the World"*



Bending the Arc Task Force

2024 ELECTIONS – DEFENDING OUR DEMOCRACY

By Gail Johnson Vaughan

This is looking like a now or never year when getting out the vote is absolutely critical to protecting our democracy! You are invited to stay engaged, stay committed, and enlist every voter you know into the effort. We will be sending more information closer to the launch dates, or as we receive it.



This year UUCM will have something for everyone:

Postcarding - we will again partner with the Center for Common Ground's **Reclaim Our Vote** campaign to get out the vote in critically important voter suppression states.

Texting and Phone Banking - If writing postcards is not your thing you can join us as we partner with UU the Vote for their texting and phone banking campaigns – more on these later.

POSTCARDS

Our work in Virginia was incredibly successful, as people came out in huge numbers to vote in that consequential election. Center for Common Ground reached 99% of the 287,000 voters on their list! UUCM's contribution to that was significant. Thank you for every postcard you wrote! In all, 2023 was a very successful year for **Reclaim Our Vote** - thanks again to your significant efforts. We also had great outcomes in both the Virginia Special Election for a vacant House seat and the Wisconsin supreme court special election!

ON TO 2024!

Reclaim our Vote will first focus on Congressional primaries and possibly special elections, then go all out for the November general election. We will be starting with the Georgia's May 21 Congressional primary and Virginia's June 18 Congressional primary.

GEORGIA: Target voters: 220,000 BIPOC voters,
10-14 days of Early Voting
February 23 - addresses available
Mail Postcards: May 1-6

VIRGINIA: Target voters: 281,000 BIPOC voters,
45 days Early Voting
March 1 - addresses available,
Mail Postcards: May 7-21

How YOU CAN HELP:

JOIN THE POSTCARD CLUB -

There are three options for membership:

- **Writer/funders** – commit to writing and contributing \$10 per least one packet of 20 cards in the primary months of March, April & May, and the months nearer the general election
- **Funders-only** – contribute funds to underwrite the postcarding costs of those who can write but not afford the \$10/packet
- **Writers-only** – write postcards with costs covered by scholarships from the Funder pool.

Gail Johnson Vaughan also needs assistants to build and distribute postcard packets

INDIVIDUAL PACKET WRITERS:

- Pick up packets as you are willing and able
- Contribute \$10 per packet as you are willing and able
- Invite others of your family and friends to write postcards

Many of you did this in 2022. It made a huge difference, letting us take credit for sending 14,000 postcards and earning us the revered designation of **GOOD TROUBLE CONGREGATION**.

LAST YEAR, SOME OF YOU...

- asked one or two friends to join the Postcard Club and make the monthly packet writing commitment.
- asked for friends and family to write one packet in lieu of a birthday gift.
- held postcard writing parties
- enlisted participation of members of other organizations they belonged to.

What creative and fun idea might you add to this list?!

TEXTING & PHONE BANKING

We will join **UU the Vote** text and phone banking team. Easy, fun, and appreciated by the recipients since the message is just when and where to vote. We will supply training and probably have texting and phone banking parties. Stay tuned for more info as we get closer.

Address your questions to gailjv@uugrassvalley.org

Bending the Arc Task Force

TAKE A DEEPER DIVE INTO UUA'S PROPOSED ARTICLE II CHANGES

Wonder what this Article II stuff is all about? Join our Deeper Dive discussion group. The four-session program engages you in the Purposes, Values and Covenant, Inspiration, Inclusion and Freedom of belief of the proposed Article II which will be voted on at General Assembly 2024.

One of the important tasks we take on as Unitarian Universalists who hold Love as our core value is the study of how love moves among us. That's what Article II of the UUA Bylaws, Principles and Purposes is all about. The Deeper Dive discussion group(s) uses a format developed by UU Wellspring with a goal of taking a deeper dive while in a covenanted community before reacting to or giving feedback on the proposed Article II. GA delegates will especially appreciate the exploration, but all are welcome.

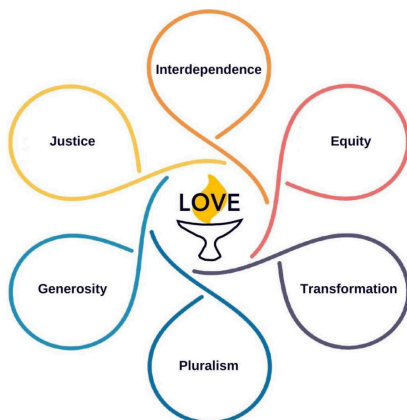
SESSIONS INCLUDE:

1. Covenant - *Use the covenant section from the Proposed Article II to explore and live into.*
2. Purpose, Inspirations, Inclusion and Freedom of Belief *Focus on the sections before and after the values and covenant.*
3. Love - *Explore the centering value in the proposed Article II.*
4. Six Values: Interdependence, Justice, Equity, Generosity, Pluralism, and Transformation - *Connect with the values and their meaning in our lives and communities.*

Facilitator: Gail Johnson Vaughan

Date/Time: Up to two discussion groups will be scheduled based on timing needs of interested participants.

How to join: Email Gail at gailjv@uugrassvalley.org



Starting off 2024!

Record Thanksgiving Crowds

IFM served a record number of folks in the two weeks before Thanksgiving, about 4,200 people! This is an increase of 15% over last year.

Upcoming Fundraiser with Briar Patch

In the month of January, Briar Patch Food Coop has their **Roundup at the Register** which benefits IFM. 100% of proceeds go to IFM. Customers are given the option to round up their purchase at the checkout to the nearest dollar or more.

... IFM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! ...

Drivers • Packing and Sorting
Checkers • Traffic Control Help
More details at

<https://www.interfaithfoodministry.org/volunteer.html>

Donations for Hospitality House

Keith Johnson, UUCM Justice Team Co-Leader

UUCM is supporting Hospitality House by collecting donations of needed items for the guests. Utah Phillips, the founder of Hospitality House, was a member of UUCM, and UUCM has supported the shelter, named in his honor, since its inception as a nomadic shelter.

The project is on-going, the last Sunday of every month. You may bring your donations during open office hours or Sunday mornings.

Your donations will be useful and deeply appreciated:

- Single sized sheets and blankets
- Towels, new pillows
- Hoodies for both men and women, especially large
- Athletic shoes
- Ponchos
- Toiletries (razors and toothbrushes)

*Warm thanks for your gifts,
Laurie Bell, Keith Johnson, Carol Nimick*

Community Connections – Online & In Person

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

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

What IS the Spirituality Sharing Circle?

The Spirituality Sharing Circle is neither a meditation nor a discussion group, but a treasured opportunity for centering and listening (to each other and to our individual deep wisdom) in the supportive company of others. It provides a place to connect with folks who value the quiet space that allows questions to percolate, a relief from the hubbub of normal social interaction, and a source of personal enrichment.

You may wonder what is meant by "spirituality." Well, we don't worry too much about defining it. Others may wish to Form a Committee and Develop Consensus, but we prefer to relax into the ambiguity, allowing it to take us where it may. Something very special always emerges when silence and spoken reflection receive ample room at the table.

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, January 3 at 10:45 AM at UUCM will be "Humanism 101, an introduction (or refresher) to Humanism."

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!

As you can see from the photo, we had a lot of fun and great food at the annual holiday potluck!

Our next meeting is **Monday, January 8 at UUCM**. It's our annual **Planning Meeting and Potluck!** Bring your ideas for future meeting activities to share along with your potluck dish.

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.

With Loving Intentions for the New Year

By Cheryl Spaulding,
UUCM Family Ministry Team Member

The New Year is always a good time to rethink the usefulness or effectiveness of our routines and habits. Upstairs, in our Kids Connection program, we have been doing some of this New Year rethinking. Consequently, we will start the New Year with some changes in our Kids Connection rituals. If you and your children are curious about what these changes might be, you will have to join us on the **first Sunday of January (the 7th)** to find out for yourselves. We are looking forward to many opportunities of connecting with you and your children in the year ahead.

Our Soul Matters theme for January is "Liberating Love." Maya Angelou reminded us that "love liberates. It doesn't just hold—that's ego. Love liberates. It doesn't bind." An important question for all of us to ponder is how our expressions of love for each other, and especially for our children and youth, can be liberating. Specifically, how can we create loving, safe, and stimulating environments that will support our children and youth as they gradually become the adults they are meant to be? Expressions of love that liberate might include showing interest, being curious, maintaining openness, demonstrating loyalty, and having faith that we will all grow together in ways that serve us individually, as well as communally.

Every Sunday we seek to create a place where your children can express themselves, explore their interests, and make personal connections—ultimately discovering for themselves what it feels like to be a part of UUCM. We are also committed to promoting age-appropriate understandings of the principles, values, and rituals of Unitarian Universalism.



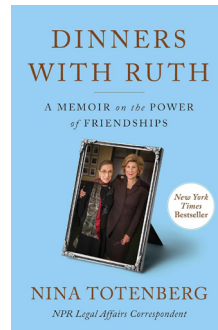
ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH:

Building and Grounds Workday
Saturday, January 20,
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at UUCM
Age-appropriate tasks will be available
for children and youth who
attend this activity.

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



Sunday, January 14, at 12:30 PM*

Dinners with Ruth:

A Memoir on the Power of Friendships

by Nina Totenberg, 320 pages,
Presenter: Judith Gropp

This memoir was written by one of the founding mothers of NPR. She shares both professional and personal successes and struggles within the intimacy and power of women's friendships. Nina includes her relationship with Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

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

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





Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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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*