

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

August 2024

## UPCOMING SERVICES

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

*If you've been exposed to Covid, RSV, the flu, or are just not feeling well, 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 ...

### August 4 Lessons from Frederick Douglass

A founding father of USA progressive movement  
Guest Speaker: Sidney Morrison, with Tracy Pepper and Gail Johnson, Worship Associates

This is a service not to be missed. Our guest speaker is Sidney Morrison, whose new novel on Frederick Douglass has just been published to national acclaim. The book is described as a "mesmerizing historical novel richly detailing Douglass' life and the Civil War Era." Mr. Morrison will speak on Douglass' life and dedication to social justice, including his early and radical support of Chinese migrant workers who labored in the gold fields of our region.

This period of Douglass' life has consequences in our own time. America in the nineteenth century was a crucible of crisis over slavery, the Civil War, and the crusade for women's equal rights. We can learn so much from the life of this man who exemplified how we become our better selves when we become the ally of those who are not ourselves.

### August 11 Upstairs/Downstairs: Living & Learning Together

Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Carol Nimick, Worship Associate, and Cheryl Spaulding, Religious Education Team Member

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." – John Dewey (1859-1952)

Here at UUCM, children, youth, and grownups co-create educational and transformational life experiences, both upstairs in our Kids' Connection spaces and downstairs in the spaces where we all work, play, and socialize together.

### August 18 Scared of Fire or Sacred Fire?

Beth Karow and Cheryl Morris, Worship Associates

Sometimes the things we fear the most can be our greatest teachers. While some of our congregants are away at the annual UUCM Campout, some of the rest of us will gather "around the campfire" at UUCM to explore what we might discover from facing our fears, especially around the sacred-yet scary-element of fire. Through music, readings, ritual, and personal expressions, let us kindle the possibilities that ignite when we pivot the power of "scared" to "sacred".

### August 25 Nurturing Hope with Agency & Intention

Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

These days we seem to be living the words of our hymn "it may ...  
...Description continued on page 4

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

Dear ones,

I'm just back from almost six weeks away in Michigan for a series of family events, including three weddings, a family reunion, and a graduation party. During the first few weeks, I worked remotely, and during the last two, which included the Mt Chalice deadline, I was on vacation. So, this month, I'm honoring that vacation spirit with this brief note and a few photos rather than a column.

I know, so much has been happening in the world, so much is roiling in our minds and hearts, and so much is calling out for our attention. I'm thoughtful about the need both to engage the rhythms of these times, and to find moments of respite along the way. This will be the work of the months ahead. I look forward to picking up the conversations with you, in the eChalice, on Sundays, in our meetings, and in our one-to-one interactions.

Meanwhile, I share a little respite energy via these images of summer in the Midwest, including time at two of the five Great Lakes.

With care,  
- Rev. Kevin





## Board of Trustees

Taylor Carey, President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees  
[President@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:President@uugrassvalley.org)

When last I wore the UUCM Board Presidential robes, my columns tended to wander around a bit outside the lines, leaving poor Rev. Kevin wishing that I would just stick to the facts. This time around, well, I'll try. But I am a writer at heart. My last seven years in the Attorney General's office were spent in the Department of Justice Opinion Unit where I was actually *paid* to write. That means I am a professional! Or was. Anyway, for those afflicted by the passion, writing is fun in and of itself. The painstaking selection of words and phrases energizes both writer and reader. It's boring simply to stick to the dry, occluded facts, even though these and their progeny are critically necessary to understanding the conduct of the community's business. So, I will relay the facts as best I can, but who says the process has to be dull? I will try to restrain myself and stay within the channels of acceptable presidential topics, mostly...

The UUCM Board has a fiduciary duty to ensure that everything done within its purview is done solely in the best interests of the community. I can say without fear or equivocation, that the UUCM Board of Trustees is absolutely devoted to advancing the mission of our spiritual community. The thing is, Board work, vital and essential though it may be, is beastly boring to write about. *"Someone raised a motion which, after being seconded by someone else, was discussed until the last word had been wrung from the subject. A vote was held and the motion passed or failed."* Breathtaking. Even the

liveliest Board meeting, once drained of its passion and pathos, devolves into a pretty ordinary processional.

This is not to suggest that the Board members themselves are dull – far from it. Our Board is comprised of fascinating individuals, each with a documentary-

worthy life story to tell. These folks will retreat next month at a secret location in the Mercy Center in Auburn for two days of vigorous planning and soul-searching, team-building, and perhaps a glass or two of wine.

This is a new Board with new members. Some of us barely know each other. The prospects for coming alliances and working relationships lift the spirits with anticipation. The annual Board retreat is where much of the visioning and goal setting for the upcoming Board year gets done. Opportunities for creativity and for new expressions

of both emerging and old ideas get the juices flowing, enlivening the promise of coming attractions. I'm looking forward to this year's retreat. I'm looking forward to the new Board year, and I promise to share what we are up to to the best of my ability.

*See you on the other side,*

*-Taylor*

### UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025**

Taylor Carey	President
Pam Kisor	Vice President
Gail Schulz	Treasurer
Open Position	Secretary

#### **Members at Large:**

Chuck Champlin, Jeff Gold & Charlene Dugan

#### **UUCM Committees:**

Finance • Governance • Endowment  
Nominating

*Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. An email announcing the meeting and a Zoom link will be sent to the community each month, one week prior to the meeting.*

*If you wish to address the Board, please give at least two days notice so the agenda timing can be adjusted.*





## Words from the Worship Team

Cheryl Morris and Carol Nimick  
Worship Team Co-Leaders  
[Worship@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Worship@uugrassvalley.org)



With the arrival of August, we are half-way through our summer services, many of them crafted by the Worship Associates, either individually or in pairs. It's very satisfying to start with an idea, flesh it out, discover or write the elements, find participants, see what music Rev. Kevin and Toby suggest, and watch it grow into an entire service. It often takes on a life of its own with the final product seeming bigger than the sum of its parts.

Our worship planning this year is enhanced by our use of a new UUA resource, "Worship for Transformation." This is an in-depth look at worship which consists of 12 video sessions, featuring 15 religious professionals, many of whom are people whose works we read as service elements (chalice lightings, opening words). It's fun to put a face with a name and to see them talking informally and interacting with one another.

Each session is jam-packed with thought-provoking ideas, plus exercises for participants to do. We are taking this large body of work in bite-sized pieces, watching one or two sessions at a time, doing the exercises individually and then sharing with each other. There are lots of insights, flashes of recognition, and spontaneous laughter and conversation. Using this rich resource helps us individually and collectively. The better we know ourselves and each other, the more cohesive we become, the safer it is to voice our thoughts and feelings and give and receive feedback. It helps us stay motivated, grow, and delight in what we do.

Our summer services perhaps reflect the interests and styles of each team member a bit more than during the rest of the year when we are guided by the Soul Matters themes. We hope you are finding them uplifting, stimulating, connective....perhaps even a bit transformational. Let us know!

- Cheryl & Carol

## Monthly Evening Service

### Join Us for an Evening Joys and Sorrows Contemplative Service

Mark your calendar for this month's service on  
Thursday, August 8, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

We'll sing hymns, join in meditation, and participate in a Joys and Sorrows ritual where all are welcome to share aloud with the group the joys and/or sorrows in their hearts that night. It's a simple but moving service held on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.



## Upcoming Services

Description continued from page 1...

**August 25    *Nurturing Hope with Agency & Intention***  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Gail Johnson Vaughan,  
Worship Associate

*These days we seem to be living the words of our hymn "it may be hard we know, and the road will be muddy and rough, but we'll get there." What options do we have to nurture hope as the maelstrom of this political season heats up? What tools are available for us to make a difference? Do we all have to be on the front lines? Is there room for us to be our authentic selves? This service will explore a range of ways we can actively feed our spirits while being strong defenders of democracy. Join us.*



## Membership

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

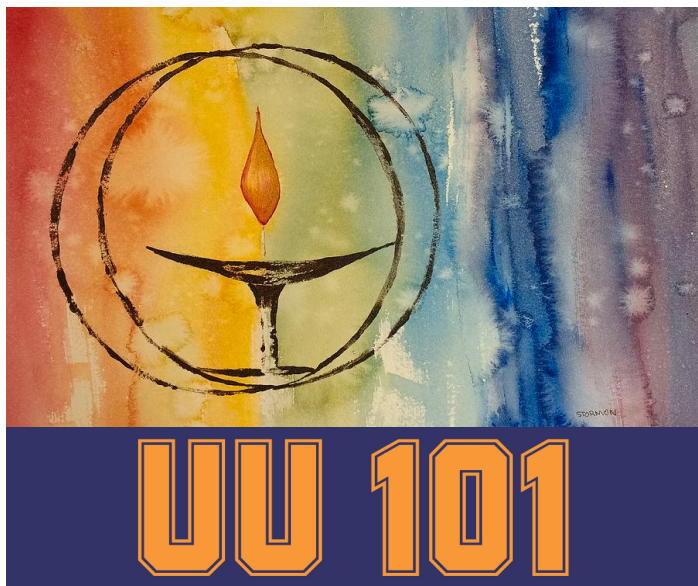


## Treasurer

Gail Schulz, Treasurer  
UUCM Board of Trustees

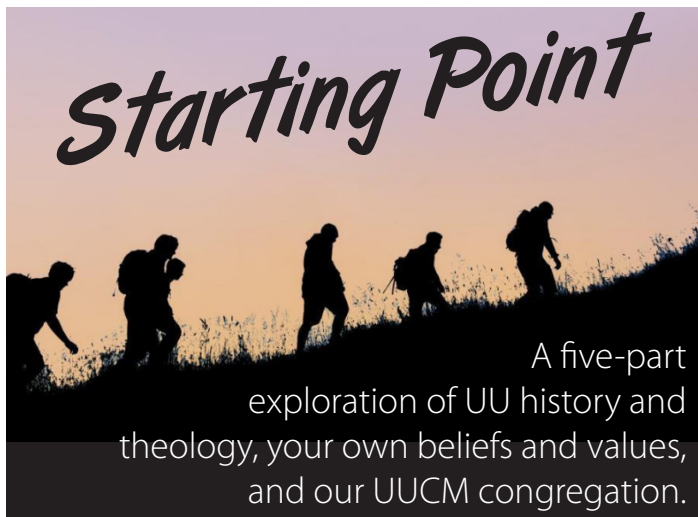
### UU101

UU 101 happens the first Sunday of every month at noon in the library. Current members and newcomers are all welcome. We'll discuss UU Principles as well as UU history and UUCM's mission. Grab your refreshments and come on in!



### STARTING POINT

Our next Starting Point series will begin in September. They will be on Fridays, September 13 & 20, and October 4 & 11, and possibly a 5th session Time of day TBD. If you are interested, please let Ruth Edwards know and get on the list. Email Ruth at [startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org).



A five-part  
exploration of UU history and  
theology, your own beliefs and values,  
and our UUCM congregation.

## A Fiscal Year End Update from the Treasury

I can't believe it, but we did it! Our budget for FY 23-24 started out with a deficit of almost \$10,000. However, we ended the fiscal year with a \$345 surplus! Thanks to all you faithful donors who paid your pledges and continued participating in our church activities. And a big thank you to the staff, teams, and community who stayed within budget, while managing to have a varied, rich, and lively church year.

We still have a few people who may have missed a payment for one reason or another, and we will reach out to them in the coming weeks. Any money brought in on last year's pledges now will be used to augment and replenish our Capital Expenditure Reserve, after money was spent fixing a leak in the roof, and a few other things.

Going forward, we will continue to send detailed quarterly statements, which should help us all to stay up to date.

I would also note, that in addition to managing our operating budget well, our very generous community supported the Haitian Family relief fund with over \$20,000, poured money into the postcard project, and increased our endowment nicely! Thanks to all for these efforts. It is my pleasure to be your Treasurer.

with Gratitude,  
*Gail*

## Endowment



**Thank you to Carol Kuczora and Janet Dunstan  
who celebrated their birthdays with a gift of \$1 for every year  
to our UUCM Endowment Fund!**

**Simple Gifts** are always a great way to honor special events in your life, or the passing of friends, family, and fellow UUCM-ers, or anything you feel like acknowledging with a special contribution. We would love to talk with you about other kinds of Endowment Gifts, too. Please contact us at: [Endowment@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Endowment@uugrassvalley.org) with your questions!





## Art & Aesthetics Team

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

And if you haven't already seen Shauna Smith's amazing, multi-media exhibit at the UUCM library, you still have time. It will be on display until sometime in mid-August. We are grateful to Shauna for sharing her extensive body of work and appreciate all the work that went in to making the exhibit a success.

### Presenting our Next Art Exhibit



#### Sondra Schwartz MULTI-MEDIA EXHIBIT

IN THE LIBRARY  
MID AUGUST  
ARTIST'S RECEPTION:  
TBD



Beginning the middle of August, UUCM is honored to feature the work of another new member of our congregation, Sondra Schwartz, a creative UU artist.

Sondra taught high school Spanish in Oakland for 40 years, from 1972 until her retirement in 2010. During her time as a teacher, she drew on her creativity to maintain her sanity and augment her skills in a very challenging inner-city school. When she retired, she went to Tuscany in Italy for two weeks to take an oil painting class. In addition to painting, Sondra has been quilting for 40 years and is looking forward to sharing her work with our community.

Sondra is 79 years young. She teaches Qi Gong, a Chinese martial arts design for healing, flexibility, and youth. She practices and teaches online on Tuesday mornings and has done so for 25 years.

Sondra is looking forward to meeting all of you and sharing her oil paintings, acrylics, watercolors, and quilts. She would be happy for anyone who would like to own any of her art pieces to make the best offer possible. She would love to put her art in your home!

Be watching the e-Chalice and Sunday slides for the date of Sondra's reception.



A preview of upcoming artist Sondra' Schwartz's beautiful works of art...be sure to come in and see more after August 15!



## Parish Care

Gwen Eymann  
Leader, UUCM Parish Care Team  
[Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)

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

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

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that we all share in the responsibility for one another's care, and we invite all members and friends of UUCM to become actively involved in this wonderfully important opportunity for service. If supporting this work interests you, please fill out this brief [Parish Care Team Volunteer Survey](#) to identify tasks you would be willing to do on occasion. The Parish Caring Team will contact you as needs arise.

For more information, to request care, or to share word of someone in need of care, please contact us at: [Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)



### PARISH CARE TEAM MEMBERS:

Gwen Eymann, *chair*,  
Jenny Dewey, Robin Hart,  
Anne Lyon, Cheryl Morris



## Lay Pastoral Care Team

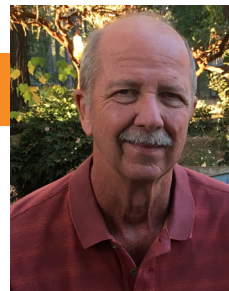
### Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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, Sue Gregory, Carol Richey, Corrie Silva, and Tom Wernigg, or you can email the whole team: [LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org)



## B & G Team

Wally Holtan, *Leader*,  
Building & Grounds Team  
[B-G@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:B-G@uugrassvalley.org)

### Getting Stuff Done While Having Fun!

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

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

*-Wally*



# Guess Who He Is?

### A Profile by Jenny Dewey

The person I am profiling will remain nameless until the end of this piece. If you cannot endure the mystery, you may look at the end where he is named. This will ruin everything, of course. But, it's up to you.

The man is busy volunteering and participating in innumerable activities at UUCM. He is understated in his presentation. People might think he is shy, and they would not be far off the mark.

He assumes small but essential tasks. Giving him recognition for this brings on a smile and a shrug. He is never temperamental and makes friends easily. On occasion his genial manner might be misleading. People may assume he is nice, but without substance. This is far from the truth.

Once you get to know him beyond first impressions you discover surprising aspects of his character. When I first came to UUCM this person got in line for Joys and Sorrows and I noticed he was wearing running shoes and shorts. I was dismayed. I assumed people dressed up for church, or at least did not wear shorts and running shoes. It was winter and cold. Why wasn't this person freezing?

The answer came when the man told me he's been a runner all his life. His running history reflects total commitment. He says running "saved him" because as a student in high school he was mediocre. His passion

for running gave him an alternative, a way to succeed. He has worked with disabled kids and more recently has been a running coach for a local high school. His knowledge of famous runners from the past is all-inclusive. He celebrates Roger Bannister, the first man to break the four-minute mile in May 1954. Dressing like a runner is second nature to him.

He has a habit of self-effacement. Friends have told him it's a mistake to view himself this way. He uses the word goofy far too often. His mentor in writing sessions (who shall remain nameless) asked him to write an essay on the word in an effort to reduce the number of times he used it to describe himself.

He wrote the essay, and it was well written (he writes well), so now he uses the word less often.

He is a loyal and loving father to his daughters, and a grandfather deeply involved with his grandchildren. By now most of you know who this person is, and maybe you're right. Of course you may be shaking your

head, clueless and bewildered. As my 500-word limit approaches I will reveal his name: Gene Gilligan. The next time you see him greeting people before a service consider shaking his hand. Or maybe a fist-bump or a hand on the shoulder, or even just a smile. I know Gene will appreciate any gesture of friendship you offer.



*Gene in his "happy place"*





## Climate Champions on Parade!

By Bob Miller, Justice Team Co-Chair

Since the July 4th parade provides a captive audience, the Citizens' Climate Lobby has used it to promote their climate advocacy. In the past two years they have paraded the giant SHOE (showing carbon 'footprint' and built in a UUCM garage) and a float promoting healthy forests, permit process reform, electrification, and a price on carbon. This year, they changed it up to demonstrate that many organizations are concerned about the climate crisis, not just Citizens' Climate Lobby.

Under the banner of "Climate Champions" they recruited other organizations to march together. The group included Nevada County Climate Action Now (wasteNOT – Plastic), Energy Action Plan Working Group, and several churches (Nevada City United Methodist, Quakers, St. Patrick's, and of course, UUCM).

UUCM was well represented including Jim Bair, Cindy Burton, Taylor Carey, Chuck Champlin, Andy Dooley-Miller, Keith Johnson, Steve Temple, and Kathryn Young. Kudos to those who braved the 104°F heat! It was great marching with a varied group and we definitely got some appreciation from the crowd — though not quite as much as the ones that tossed candy, sprayed cold water, or had dancing merfolk!

The concept of "Climate Champions" brought many organizations together and was a success. We hope to use this unifying theme at other events. Watch uucmConnect for announcements of such opportunities to the UUCM community, so all who want to take part can do so.



## Bending the Arc Task Force

By Gail Johnson Vaughan, BTATF Member

### POSTCARDS: MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

Thank you, thank you for writing postcards and/or funding stamps for writers who can't. We all are so concerned and grateful to have an answer to the question "but what can I do?"

And thanks to those of you who have enlisted your friends to write postcards and/or held a Postcard Writing Party. We're not the only ones eager "to do something!" Our team is ready and willing to make as many packets for people as are needed, whether they are part of the UUCM community or not. They can sign out packets Sundays before or after service, and Monday through Friday mornings. Non-club members can come to the Walsh Street door where Siobhan can help them. Feel free to direct them to [GOTV@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:GOTV@uugrassvalley.org) if they have questions.

Now that we are working to get out the vote for the November election, the process is to Write, Hold, and Mail in October. We have a box at UUCM where you can put your finished postcards, or you can hold them at home. We are finishing up the Florida packets and then will start to reach out to Black voters in the swing state of Georgia. For GA, we're writing with the Team Unity GA coalition to registered Black voters in Georgia, where basic civil rights are threatened, to emphasize that their vote is consequential. Our postcards urge Early Voting to avoid overly long lines and other Election Day hazards Black voters have experienced due to targeted voter suppression.

Take a look at the label we put on these postcards.

**Early Voting Oct 15-Nov 1**  
Cobb dates & info  
**770-528-2581 or GAvoter.net/polling**  
**Verify Registration, Know your Ballot:**  
**GAvoter.net/ActiVote**

To help voters understand a complex ballot, Center for Common Ground (our postcard partner) endorses ActiVote, a secure platform from a small team devoted to democracy and voter privacy. ActiVote provides ballot and polling info, ranks candidates in relation to a voter's surveyed views, and verifies registration, Voter ID, etc.

So pick up your packets, have fun writing, and don't forget to put your dot on the Tally Jar poster.



### Child Advocates Back-to-School Donation Drive

**SCHOOL BACK PACKS AND DIAPER BAGS  
NEEDED BY AUGUST 19TH**

Child Advocates (CASA) requests supplies for kids heading back to school. They like to provide new backpacks for their children in foster care. They'd like backpacks for kids age five through high school.

They also could use diaper bags for infants and toddlers.

**YOU CAN DROP ITEMS OFF UNTIL AUGUST 19.**

Can you believe school is about to start again? Let's give our foster kids a good start with a new backpack!

**DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO THEIR OFFICE AT:**  
Child Advocates of Nevada County  
200 Providence Mine, Suite 210,  
Nevada City, CA 95959



## Share the Plate

UUCM's May *Share the Plate* recipient, [Nevada County Veterinary Disaster Response Team](#), will receive \$897.90, thanks to generous UUCM members, friends, and visitors. These weekly donations add up. Thank you all!

As of this writing, we are currently finishing up collections for our July *Share the Plate* recipient, [Bright Futures for Youth](#)



Our August *Share the Plate* recipient is Sierra Streams Institute.

[Sierra Streams Institute](#) (SSI) is a watershed monitoring, research, and restoration group based in Nevada City. Founded in 1995 as Friends of Deer Creek, SSI has grown to become an important voice in the regional scientific community.

SSI believes in putting the best practices of science to work on behalf of environmental and human health. SSI works directly with citizen scientists to monitor water quality and collect benthic macroinvertebrate, algae, wildlife, and physical habitat data.

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

## Hospitality House Donation Collection is On-Going...

UUCM is supporting Hospitality House by collecting donations of needed items for their guests. The project is on-going every month of the year, and requests are updated monthly based on the current need. Please bring your donations on the **last Sunday of the month** when a collection box will be in the foyer of the church.

### **HOSPITALITY HOUSE IS IN URGENT NEED OF THESE ITEMS ONLY:**

- Twin-sized (only) sheets and blankets
- Women's Bras and Underwear (S M L)
- Q Tips
- Men's & Women's Sneakers - any size



# 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](mailto: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

**7:30 AM, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, OFFSITE**

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

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, Siobhan ([Admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Admin@uugrassvalley.org)) to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can hear about last minute changes.

### 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](mailto:Men@uugrassvalley.org)

### SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

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

Contact [SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org)



### WOMEN'S GROUP MONTHLY POTLUCK –

**SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM\***

**NOTE: AUGUST IS OFF SITE,  
No POTLUCK, TIME TBD.....!!**

All UUCM women (and friends!) are invited to any Women's Group gathering. Come make

connections with other UU women!

Our next meeting is **Monday, August 12 Off Site!**

We will be **skipping our usual potluck** and meeting at a local movie theater where we can enjoy the air conditioning and popcorn! Angelina Young will be organizing... look for her email to the group so you can help choose the movie, theater, time, etc. Do not meet at UUCM unless you have arranged to carpool. Do not bring a potluck item! Friends welcome.

For reminders and RSVPs, join the Women's Group email list by sending an email to our Administrative Assistant, Siobhan Boylan, at: [Admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Admin@uugrassvalley.org).



### HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

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

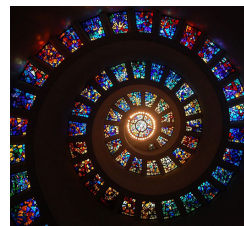
Our UUCM Humanism Discussion Group is a gathering for both those who identify as humanists and those who are interested in learning about this philosophy.

Our group's purpose is to connect and intellectually explore the issues that touch our daily lives through Humanism's values and principles. Humanism emphasizes ethical living, critical thinking, and social justice while aiming to inspire compassionate action and mutual understanding.

Our discussions over the next three months will focus on the upcoming election. The topic for our next meeting on Wednesday, August 7, at 10:45 AM at UUCM will be how to cope with the political stress this election season and what do we think the perceived nature of the state of democracy will be after the election, applying humanistic values to the recent Supreme Court rulings.

Topics for group discussion are chosen by participants, and optional readings on the topics are made available prior to the meeting. When health precautions allow, we meet in person at UUCM. If you would like to take part via Zoom, request the link by emailing [Humanism@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Humanism@uugrassvalley.org)

Please view the UUCM Website Calendar for the most up to date meeting information.



### SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE

**FOURTH SATURDAYS, 2:00 - 3:30 PM,  
ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM**

Questions? Contact:

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



**...is off for the SUMMER!**

## Looking Forward to September with a Newly Re-Vamped Kid's Connection

*By Cheryl Spaulding,*

Even though the calendar year starts in January, for those of us who have spent our adult lives tending to the educational, spiritual, and emotional needs of children and youth, the new year really begins in or around September. The Family Ministry Team spent most of last year, the FY23-24 year, reconceptualizing our Kids' Connection program to better align with the number and ages of the children who tended to show up each week, as well as the human resources we had available to offer this experience for the children each Sunday.

As we rethought the program, we experimented with alternative versions of it. We made changes based upon how the children responded and discovered new ways to use the space available upstairs to better meet the needs of the children and provide the breadth of experiences we wanted them to have. This year, the FY24-25 year, we feel confident that we have beautiful and functional spaces for the children, with engaging materials that reflect our UU values. We hope to share these values with the children through rituals, readings, conversations, and most importantly, play.

We are proud of what we have to offer, so the time has come to shift our priorities to recruiting more children. Toward that end, we have three special events planned.

**On Sunday, August 11,** the service at UUCM will focus on the Kids' Connection program. I will present the message to the congregation on that day. The service, which is entitled Upstairs/Downstairs: Living and Learning Together, will describe the philosophical and UU values inherent in our Kids' Connection program. In addition, I will include photos and stories from "upstairs" that illustrate or reflect those philosophical and UU values.

**On Sunday, September 8, National Grandparents' Day,** we will have a Bring Your Grandkids to Church Day. The children's day will begin, as usual, downstairs in the sanctuary. After the congregation sings the children on their way to the tune of "This Little Light of Mine", we will convene upstairs to hear stories about grandparents and create special pieces of art to give to their grandparents.

**On Sunday, September 15, we have scheduled a Kids' Connection Open House.** We are reaching out to families

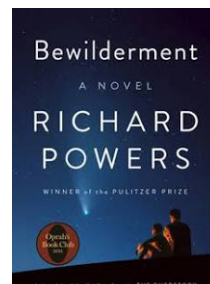
(for whom we have email addresses) that have attended Kids' Connection over the last year, and we hope to attract new families from the larger community who might be interested in our Kids' Connection program. The Open House will begin after the service at noon, and last until 1:00 or 1:30 PM. After the downstairs service, grownups will reconnect with their children upstairs where they will learn about our Kids' Connection program, take part in some UU-inspired routines and rituals, and most importantly, meet other families who participate in the Kids' Connection program. Lunch will be served.

We are hoping to involve the whole community in our efforts to get the word out about our amazing Sunday morning program for young and elementary school-aged children. Building this program should be an "Upstairs/Downstairs" endeavor. Help us get the word out to the larger Nevada County community!

## 2nd Sunday Book Group

**USUALLY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:15 PM  
IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM**

**CONTACT:** Theresa at [BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org)



August 11, 2024:

**Bewilderment** by Richard Powers  
Presenter: Jo Waters

The archeologist Theo Byrne searches for life throughout the cosmos while single-handedly raising his unusual nine-year-old Robin. Robin is a warm, kind boy who spends hours painting elaborate pictures of endangered animals.. He's also about

to be expelled from third grade for smashing his friend in the face. As his son grows more troubled, Theo hopes to keep him off psychoactive drugs. He learns of an experimental neurofeedback treatment to bolster Robin's emotional control, one that involves training the boy on the recorded patterns of his mother's brain.

With its soaring descriptions of the natural world, its tantalizing vision of life beyond, and its account of a father and son's ferocious love, **Bewilderment** marks Richard Power's most intimate and moving novel. At its heart lies the question, How can we tell our children the truth about this beautiful, imperiled planet?

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[Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

**Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322**

**Passcode: 472984**

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 Find a list of the next several months of book selections in the July 2024 Issue of the Mt Chalice at our [UUCM Website](#).





## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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

### **UUCM STAFF MEMBERS**

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***Mountain Chalice Newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of the month prior to publishing.***

***Submit by filling out the online announcement form on our website, or here:***

**[Article Submission Form](#)**

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