

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

July 2025

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 14 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

JULY & AUGUST THEME: Food for the Soul

July 6

Declarations of Interdependence

Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Gail Johnson Vaughan,
Worship Associate

The patriots of 1776 declared independence. Today our values call us to declare interdependence. The 1776 declaration held a set of truths to be self-evident: "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness are more than parades and picnics. This Sunday we are reminded that WE the people, all the people, have an unalienable right to live interdependently in freedom that serves the common good.

Join us as we celebrate this amazing country and the values that are the foundation of liberty and justice for all.

NOTE: We invite you to wear your deep values this Sunday! Put on your t-shirts, buttons, hats, sashes, sandwich boards, etc., with messages that convey a value that is deeply important to you.

July 13

Walking Each Other Home

Lindsay Duncel and Elizabeth Rose,
Worship Associates

The spiritual teacher, Ram Dass reflected that "we are all just walking each other home." Indeed, some say spirituality arises from our knowing that we must one day die. In our time together this morning, we'll reflect on approaching death for ourselves and those we love.

July 20

Spirituality, By Any Name

Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Cheryl Morris,
Worship Associate

Okay, let's acknowledge up front that the word "spiritual" is vital and foundational for some, doesn't work at all or is off-putting for others, and is neither here nor there for still others. The Latin root of the word "spirit" means "breath," and one way to understand "spiritual" is in reference to "anything that animates life." We all breathe, presumably. Religious, or spiritual, or neither, what animates your life – your inner life and your outward-facing life?

July 27

Revelation, Apocalypse, End-times Fascism, and Being Here Now

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Meeting the Moment

As we move into summer, the human universe seems to have taken on the familiar dynamics of our local fire season: tinder-dry accumulated loads ever at risk of igniting, already burning, or being addressed (in hopes of containment) by both professional and volunteer firefighters and other first responders. Plus, fires are being lit intentionally and continually by those trying to ensure a narrower ordering of humanity and/or power and wealth in the future. It's a fear-inducing, sometimes (or often) overwhelming set of challenges to body and soul these days.

What's a UU to do?

I am writing this on my way home from the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, called General Assembly, throughout which we were invited to "meet the moment." But not with anyone's predetermined answers. The leadership of our Unitarian Universalist Association is embodying the truth of our interdependence, inviting all of us, including you, to bring our insight and lived experience to the table so that we can best meet the moment together. We are invited to a communal praxis, meaning a continual cycle of shared reflection that leads to learning that leads to action, that then calls forth new reflection, launching the cycle again. We are invited to engage this cycle at large and at very local scales, meaning right here, among us.

First, to ask together, ***What is the Moment We Are In?***

Followed by, ***What are the Most Urgent and Important Needs of this Moment?***

Then, ***What do our Values Call Us to Do in Response to this Moment?***

As some of our faith leaders have written, "The heart of our faith transcends cultural shifts and political trends. But at key moments throughout the centuries, our religious ancestors have also always been willing to transform themselves and their faith to meet the needs of the moment – to let go of what no longer serves, to open to new possibilities, to seize opportunities and lean into aspiration and innovation. At our best, Unitarian Universalists are both deeply grounded in our core values and shared commitments and nimble enough to respond to the challenges and opportunities that emerge in rapidly changing times."

I name this here, at the entrance to summer:

- to lift up that meeting the moment requires all of us, not just known leaders or experts, to understand well what "the moment" is. We are so in this together.
- to note that there are deeply spiritual, deeply relational, and deeply political layers to this moment, to its most urgent and important needs, and to what our values call us to do in response. Both inward-facing and outward-facing aspects (spiritual and relational/political aspects) are crucial as well as linked.
- to invite you into these conversations, in all the ways they can and will unfold at UUCM, in our wider community, and in our faith tradition. What we can see, know, learn, and do is lessened without your voice and your insight.

It's going to be a real fire season for the foreseeable future, with or without our permission. Preparedness can help (go bags and evacuation plans and keeping personal gas tanks mostly full), and our mitigation efforts may genuinely reduce the risk and damage for ourselves and vulnerable others, but in the end, I expect we are going to keep finding ourselves at new front edges, at the next moment that needs defining, identifying the new urgent and important needs and what we're called to do in response.

Here's to the practice and praxis ahead, developing the heart, the spirit, the muscle to keep meeting the moment, ever and ever more wisely, nimbly, and deeply.

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

*Taylor Carey, EX-President,
UUCM Board of Trustees*
President@uugrassvalley.org

Okay ... well, ahem, this time, I'm fairly, mostly certain that this is my actual last President's column. My term ends at the end of June, which precedes the July Mountain Chalice by ... let's see ... one month. But, Carol Richey, our new president, reminded me that, technically, I'm still on the job until the 30th. The column is due on the 20th, soooo ...

Let me start by expressing my gratitude to the UUCM congregation for allowing me to serve as President of the Board of Trustees during this tumultuous year. Happily, the tumult does not reside within our little community but it infests virtually every other nook and cranny of our lives, compelling us to swim in a sea of worry, doubt, and sorrow for the future. Not here, though: UUCM is doing very well. One year ago, we were literally begging for members to step up into leadership positions. Today, we are suffused with people wanting to take part at all levels. In June we had the first contested Board election in our history, which is a good thing, a symbol of energy and enthusiasm.

I attribute the influx of enthusiasm to two things:

- ★ COVID, though not gone entirely, has taken its place among other horrors that have been wrestled into the shadows, allowing people to venture out with greater confidence, and
- ★ the exorcism of humanity from the federal government, which has set a plague within our revered institutions of liberty and provoked millions to rise in outrage with reason to resist the spreading autocratic contagion at every turn.

It is never not our turn to position ourselves on the side of diversity, equality, and inclusion. Unitarians and Universalists have been at the forefront of every progressive movement in our nation's history offering leadership, protection, and advancement in the cause of freedom and liberty.

Our newly constituted Board of Trustees embodies the new enthusiasm. Each member shares the skills, talents, and sound judgment that are needed to navigate the icebergs lining the course of our mission and threatening at any moment to shunt our progress into the bank. That's not going to happen.

The Board's charge, which sometimes gets lost in the discussions, is not to lead everything. Rather it is to protect the fiscal, legal, and programmatic integrity of our spiritual community. By safeguarding the foundations of our institution, the Board empowers Reverend Kevin and the Ministry Teams to carry our mission forward for UUCM and for the benefit of the greater community. Board officers, President Carol Richey, Vice President Jeff Gold, Secretary Lin Jovanovic, and Treasurer Gail Schulz, are experienced and highly qualified to meet every foreseeable challenge lying ahead. Our Members at Large, Charlene Dugan, Gwen Eymann, and Mark Grove, bring both experience and comprehensive life skills to the task.

June 30 will feel like for me what Cheryl Morris described in a recent service as the last day of school. That exquisite release from toil and responsibility, duty, and frustration that characterizes rites of passage. While I am enjoying the huzzahs and yahoos of that last day, I'm already a little envious of my successors because they are going to have an exciting time without me.

-Taylor

UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Carol Richey | <i>President</i> |
| Jeff Gold | <i>Vice President</i> |
| Gail Schulz | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| Lin Jovanovic | <i>Secretary</i> |

Members at Large:

Charlene Dugan, Gwen Eymann, and Mark Grove

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



What Feeds Your Soul?

If you don't like that word, feel free to substitute "what lights you up?" "What do you need to feel complete?" "What illuminates your world?"

The theme for our summer services is Food for the Soul. During July and August, when Soul Matters is on hiatus, and we don't draw from their material, Rev. Kevin and the Worship Team will select a theme that is open-ended enough to encompass a range of services, topics, styles, and presenters.

We are busy considering guest speakers, how to continue observing UUCM's 30th birthday, and what topics may feel most relevant to both long-time congregants and brand new folks. These days, of course, predicting what may be relevant even as soon as tomorrow seems impossible, but we are putting a lot of thought into making the summer services substantial, challenging, uplifting, and fun....you know, those qualities that make UUCM a special place to be on Sunday morning, no matter the season.

If there is something that feeds your soul that might be a good addition to a Sunday service, please let us know. Come and enjoy summer with us!

- Cheryl and Carol

Monthly Evening Service



Join us for an Evening Contemplative Service

SECOND THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH,
7:00 TO 8:00 PM
GENTLE MUSIC BEGINS AT 6:30 PM

This month's service: **Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM**

It's a simple but moving service. We will sing hymns, join in meditation, and take part 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.

Upcoming Services

Continued from page 1...

July 27 **Revelation, Apocalypse, End-times Fascism, and Being Here Now**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Elizabeth Rose,
Worship Associate

The Book of Revelation, also known as The Book of the Apocalypse, is "the only book in the Christian scriptures to feature dragons, giant bugs, and airborne horses." Plus, rivers of blood, lots of plagues, a lake of fire, and stars falling from the sky. Clearly, part of the multiverse. For some, it is a storyboard for what's going down, a prophecy and blueprint for the end times. That's not what our tradition would take from it, though some of us may be feeling our own sense of apocalypse these days. What now??

NOTE: Stay for a Salad Sunday Lunch after the service, and a chance to share your thoughts, ideas, insights, feelings, and/or vision about how UUCM best meets the large number of people who want to be part of our Sunday morning services. (See below for details.)

Sharing & Listening Session

The Welcome Challenge of an Over-Full Sanctuary

SALAD LUNCH & SHARING SESSION - SUNDAY, JULY 27
AFTER SERVICE ~ 12:00 NOON

Stay after the July 27 Sunday service for a **Salad Sunday Lunch** and a deep sharing and listening session - an opportunity to share your thoughts, ideas, insights, feelings, and/or vision regarding how UUCM best meets the large number of people who are wanting to be part of our Sunday morning services. Rev. Kevin, with Board member Charlene Dugan and Beth Karow, will host and invite deep and intentional sharing and listening. This conversation is intended to gather a meaningful pool of insight and feeling rather than reach a specific decision about how to proceed. What arises will, however, help inform the next steps in the discernment process.

Summer Fun!

Instant Choir with Rev. Kevin

SUNDAY, JULY 6 AT 9:30 AM

Come join the choir for a day! Our Instant Choir (always fun) will gather with Rev. Kevin at 9:30 AM sharp on Sunday, July 6 and will sing in the morning's service rooted in our UU value of interdependence. Join in leading the high energy "Woke Up This Morning" and a second choral piece still being chosen. All ages and all kinds of singers are welcome. RSVP-ing to Rev. Kevin at minister@uugrassvalley.org will help to plan for numbers and will also put you on the list to receive music, recording links, and singing tips ahead of time. Singing is a wonderful way to share a sense of connection and to serve the community at the same time. Hope to see you there!



Inch by Inch, Row by Row...

By Shannon Dooley-Miller

We have a garden growing out in UUCM's "back 40" and you are all invited to come check it out and enjoy sitting around our new backyard table.

Thanks to Laurie Bell, Bodhi Busick, Andy Dooley-Miller, Paul Elias, Sue Hollon, and Lin St. Jacques for helping to create and nurture our garden. Special thanks to our youth gardeners Asa, Finn and Ruby!

If you have comments or suggestions for the garden let us know. We look forward to sharing our harvest.

- The UUCM Garden Team



Membership



Laura Harter
Chair, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

Sign Up for Starting Point Series...

Another five-week Starting Point series concluded in June, and we look forward to hosting another in the fall. If you would like to learn more about Starting Point or get on the notification list for the next one, please email startingpoint@uugrassvalley.org or speak with Ruth Edwards.

The Membership Team wishes you a rewarding summer. We hope you find ways to nurture your spirit as the days heat up. We look forward to seeing you on Sundays. As always, we invite your ideas or suggestions that help our community connect.

If you have other questions or suggestions for the Membership Team, please email me at: membership@uugrassvalley.org.

MEMBERSHIP TEAM:

Laura Harter, Chair,
Jim Bair, Laurie Bell, Ruth Edwards,
and Susan Merrill

Endowment



Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org

Simple Gifts Thank Yous

In May, Charlene Dugan and Alec MacLean celebrated their 44th anniversary and Pam Kisor, her birthday, and then Anita celebrated her 98th birthday in June by offering generous gifts to the Endowment Fund! We are so grateful!

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. We have brochures and packets to give you more details on **Legacy Gifts**...please let us know if you would like one.



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,
Anne Lyon, Cheryl Morris



Lay Pastoral Care Team

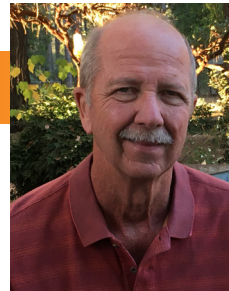
Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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, Gwen Eymann, Carol Grant, Sue Gregory, 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



Art and Aesthetics Team

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

Gail Schulz Exhibit Continues...

If you haven't had a chance to get up close and personal with Gail Schulz's needlework exhibit, currently on view in the library through August, come and be impressed. An Artist's Reception is planned for June 29 after the service.

In her own words, here is the story of Gail's art journey:



Meet Gail Schulz

"I started needlework when I was 5, just the cross stitch on stamped pillow cases, taught to me by my grandmother. I enjoyed it, but did not keep it up.

Years later, in about 1993, I was doing a lot of trips to London on business. One day I wandered into Harrod's and saw a display of needlework kits. Since I did not like to watch movies on those trans-Atlantic flights, the light bulb went on, and I bought a small kit that I could work on the plane. I really found it relaxing.

When I retired in 1997, we moved to Charleston, South Carolina. And I saw a notice in the local newspaper about a meeting of the local Needlepoint Guild, and I promptly went. They were getting ready for a class with a visiting teacher, and I was fascinated. I realized that there were techniques I needed to learn, and all kinds of challenges to take on. That was the real beginning.

I quickly realized that I love to do complex pieces and projects. It seems that the same part of my brain that thrived on dealing with complex regulatory systems as a lawyer would also thrive dealing with complex designs and projects. I'm still at it, and I love the challenges, the work with color, and the sense of accomplishment."

- Gail Schulz



Gail Schulz ART EXHIBIT

UUCM LIBRARY
GALLERY
THROUGH AUGUST

RECEPTION:
SUNDAY, JUNE 29
AFTER THE SERVICE





Ruth Edwards
UUCM Historian

UUCM History Corner

Summer 1995 UUCM News

In the June article from The History Corner, we left the UUCM story on a high note. Enthusiasm for moving forward with the steps toward UUA approval continued into the summer. However, leadership was about to change. Anita had agreed to help her husband Bill Tuttle with his summer tennis engagements. Bill, at age 82, was a well-respected and talented tennis player in his senior age group. He had just won the championship at the El Dorado Senior Tennis Tournament in May and was ranked number 29 in the country in the 80-85 age group.

So how was it that Bill Tuttle was able to lure Anita away from her beloved fledgling group? Bill was very active in the Auburn church (Sierra Foothills UU). In fact, he was one of the group of four who started the church. He had moved to Nevada City after living in Walnut Creek and being a UU at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church. He wanted to be near family, so he found a home in Nevada City and began participating in the SFUU. Anita had lost her husband shortly after moving to Grass Valley and was attending SFUU when Bill's wife died. Bill asked Anita if she would be his hostess for the soirees at his house that he periodically organized. She agreed. Anita was between housing when Bill said she could stay temporarily at his house. This arrangement was so successful that they eventually got married.

The group that started meeting in early 1994 first met at Bill and Anita's house. Bill had deep allegiance to SFUU, including a large investment in a piece of land that SFUU owned in anticipation of building a church on it. Bill supported Anita and her new group but continued his attachment to SFUU. In

fact, he did not join UUCM until August 2, 1998. By that time the SFUU land had been sold because it became obvious there would be two churches, one in Auburn and one in Grass Valley/Nevada City. After he left SFUU he supported this new fledgling church with very generous pledges and donations.

During the spring of 1995, Anita had been keeping her eye on the ideal candidate to lead the group when she was away: John Church, who with his wife Maybelle, was a member of Anita's group who had recently retired from a high-level position in education. John readily agreed to Anita's request. So, circumstances aligned to allow Anita and Bill to spend a good part of the summer of 1995 with each other, knowing that the group would be well taken care of.

The UUCM people were also enjoying the summer. The newsletter listed a Music Workshop, a campout at Chapman Creek including a Kentucky Mine concert with folksinger David Maloney, and a potluck barbecue and beach/pool party at Lake Wildwood. The group energy was strengthened by these opportunities to bond with each other. John and Maybelle also attended the annual UUA General Assembly in Spokane, Washington.



Anita Wald-Tuttle and Bill Tuttle

Next month: How the by-laws were accepted in August.

— Ruth

(Anita Wald-Tuttle provided the story of Bill Tuttle and Anita Wald-Tuttle.)

Special Feature

Mark Grove

A Profile by Jenny Dewey

*"And those who were
seen dancing were
thought to be insane
by those who could
not hear the music."*

– Friedrich Nietzsche



Mark Grove

When I think of Mark Grove, I think of his music.

I also think of failing to see him when he comes into the UUCM building unless he is wearing the hat he always wears. When he is hatless, I have to look twice to be sure it's him. I know Mark to be understated, shy, always direct, and funny. In a short span of time, and through his generous nature, he has become an integral part of the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains.

Mark arrived at UUCM when Reverend Kevin Tarsa was on sabbatical. It was, for Mark, a critical turning point, a time in his life when he was looking for a place to experience community and contribute something of himself. UUCM has become the ideal place for him to flourish.

Mark grew up in Pennsylvania where as a child he was immersed in the natural world. He says he wishes his parents had insisted he focus on a specific skill. Instead, they put no restrictions on what he showed an interest in. They had no expectation of his choosing one pursuit over another. This approach to raising a child might be seen as detrimental. After all, children are supposed to pick a profession and stick to it. In Mark's case, his freedom to explore possibilities provided him with a range of skills he wouldn't have otherwise.

He was twelve when his interest in music started to develop. He now plays a variety of instruments. His wife Heather is a professional pianist, a singer, and a song writer.

Watching Mark by the podium playing his double-bass is just one aspect of his overall presence. There is a lot more to his involvement with UUCM. Much of what he does goes uncelebrated, and he likes it this way. A lot of the volunteers at UUCM are like Mark. They go about doing what they do without much visibility.

Mark received a Viticulture degree at the University of California, Davis and entered the California wine industry. He worked as a winemaker for several wineries in Northern California and eventually became the wine producer for the State of California with E&J Gallo. He gave up this enterprise to find a deeper sense of purpose.

These days Mark is everywhere at once. He expresses being overextended, and this is probably true. It is not an uncommon state for new members to find themselves in. People usually explore a variety of possibilities and figure out where they can make a difference. This is certainly Mark's goal.

Most members of UUCM may not be interested in dancing to Mark's music, but they definitely hear him play.

Tribute to a Friend

A Tribute to Carol Hyndman

By Jenny Dewey

"A friend is someone who likes you."

(Quote from The Nutshell Library, by Maurice Sendak)

Carol was cautious about making friends. Getting to know her and gain her trust required patience. Once gained, Carol's friendship was guaranteed forever.

Carol regularly came to a writing group I facilitate at UUCM. She shared her writing with members of the group and what she wrote was never predictable. She wrote an essay on dandelions, her favorite flower, and a description of a pond where every animal, from a dragonfly to a basking turtle, played a significant role.

Carol had a menagerie consisting of a tortoise named Mr. T., a box turtle named Flower, and numerous cats. Mr. T. was in her life for forty years. She kept hedgehogs, nourished baby birds until they flew away, officiated at animal blessing ceremonies, and took in abandoned cats regardless of how many cats she already had. She cared especially for cats nobody wanted because they were sick and needed medication.

She cared about people, too. She was deeply empathetic and attentive when someone needed support. As her friend I felt comfortable reaching out to her when I was distressed.

Carol was unique in ways both expansive and particular. I miss the person who made it clear what her priorities were, and I also miss the person who regularly wore a backpack decorated with a stuffed white unicorn.

Knowing Carol, being her friend, was a gift.



THE UUCM LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM & FULL
CIRCLE OF LIVING AND DYING
PRESENT

Everyone Deserves an End-of-Life Doula

*Join us for an informative presentation
to explore your rights and options,
end-of-life care plans,
and ways to prepare for this important
final life event.*

Sunday, July 13, 2025

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

SPEAKERS:

Akhila Murphy and Vivian Hodges,
experienced end-of-life doulas,
& Jim Perkins, UUCM Member,
*sharing his own experience co-creating end-of-life care
plans with his wife through Full Circle.*

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Introduction of Full Circle of Living and Dying -
501(c)(3) nonprofit
What does an End-of-Life Doula do?
Co-creating advance End-of-Life Plan of Care for both
non-terminal and terminal life situations
California's End-of-Life Option
or Medical Aid in Dying
Vigiling • Lying in Honor • Disposal Options & More



<https://www.fullcirclelivingdyingcollective.com/>

Contact: Akhila Murphy (916) 397-5443 or
Vivian Hodges (408) 836-8562

Bending the Arc Task Force

By Gail Johnson-Vaughan



TIME TO ORDER POSTCARD PACKETS FOR VIRGINIA STATE GENERAL ELECTIONS

Postcarding for the General Election begins July 27. The price of postcard stamps is going from 56 to 62 cents on July 12! Now is the time for

me to stock up on stamps and postcards. After the Virginia Primary, we will be writing for the Virginia General Election and then, in 2026, the midterms. It's never been more important to turn out every vote, and we have our work cut out for us. It's going to be a busy year ahead.

VIRGINIA GENERAL ELECTION THIS FALL:

We will be launching the Virginia General Election Campaign on Sunday, July 27 with packets available at UUCM. Let me know if you'd like to help assemble the packets on Saturday July 26.

You'll have lots of time to write as the mail date will be September 15 to October 20. Virginia is a bellwether state and this year, they will be electing a Governor, Lt. Governor, and the entire House of Delegates. We'll be part of writing to all 918,860 registered Black voters and it's so important that we reach all of them. It might be a good time to start planning a couple outdoor postcard writing parties while the weather is warm and sunny!

As the price of stamps goes up, so does the cost of the postcard packets. (Cost of postcards went up, too.) UUCM underwrote the last increase in stamp cost by \$2/per packet to the tune of \$3,300 in 2024, beyond what our writers contributed (plus the full packet cost for writers who needed the financial help.) We just don't have the funds to keep that up. In my last email I let you know we were going to have to increase the cost of the packets from \$10 to \$12. We will continue to seek donations to cover the "scholarships" for those who can write but not cover their own costs.

My plan is to load up on stamps before July 12. That means I need to front the cost. Tens of thousands of stamps at \$.56 each is a lot, so if you haven't already, I am asking you to tell me how many packets you plan to do for the Virginia Primary and the 2026 midterms. That's how many stamps I will buy at \$.56. Please also let me know whether or not you will be able to cover the cost of \$12 per packet.

If possible, it would be extremely helpful if you could reimburse UUCM for the packets you plan to do by July 1. I will have a postcard reimbursement jar in the foyer of UUCM along with envelopes for cash and checks on which to write your name. Donations above covering costs are warmly welcomed from writers and non-writers.

Note: cost of packets requested after the increase in stamp price will be \$13 to cover the \$1.20 increase of the 20 stamps.



Hospitality House Donations

Our continued generous support of Hospitality House is greatly appreciated by the guests and staff! When you are enjoying refreshments after a Sunday service, take a peek into our Hospitality House donation bin - especially towards the end of the month. It is heartwarming to see how many items are in there!

Needed Items Are:

- Men's short-sleeve tees and button down shirts
- Men's casual pants and shorts
- Towels
- Twin Blankets and Twin Size Flat Sheets
- NEW Pillows
- NEW Toiletries - Shampoo, Conditioner, Razors, Soap)

*For the most current update on their needs,
please check their website: <https://hhshelter.org/>*

Please leave donations in the designated bin in UUCM's Alcott (refreshments) room.

*Thank you for your generosity,
Laurie Bell & Keith Johnson*



We still need volunteer food sorters,
checkers and distribution drivers.
Call Victoria at IFM - (414) 339-5855 - for information.

Justice Activities

Share the Plate

UUCM's May Share the Plate recipient, [KARE Crisis Nursery](#) received \$1,018, 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 June partner, [Color Me Human](#).



Our July Share the Plate recipient is [Child Advocates of Nevada County](#). Child Advocates of Nevada County helps children who may have been neglected or abused to grow up safely, securely, and ready for the future. The organization provides training for qualified volunteers to become Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Through advocacy, education, and child abuse prevention services, Child Advocates work to ensure that all of Nevada County's children can grow up in safe, nurturing, and permanent homes.

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

Introducing our Share the Plate Partners for 2025-2026

Thank you for voting to select our **Share the Plate Partners** for next year. A total of 48 members and friends made their voices heard. Unfortunately, there were 15 worthwhile organizations to choose from but only 10 available slots. (IFM and Hospitality House are automatically chosen as our partners each year.) Listed below are the partners that you selected for next year:

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| July | Child Advocates of Nevada County |
| August | Bear Yuba Land Trust |
| September | Habitat for Humanity |
| October | Sierra Roots |
| November | Bright Futures for Youth |
| December | Hospitality House |
| January | Community Beyond Violence |
| February | FREED |
| March | Citizens for Choice |
| April | KARE Crisis Nursery |
| May | IFM |
| June | Color Me Human |

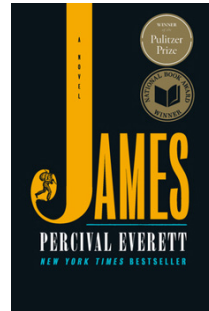
Thanks again for voting and supporting these local non-profit organizations.

2nd Sunday Book Group

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

CONTACT: BookGroupInfo@uugrassvalley.org

Our book group is reading an exciting variety of fiction and non-fiction this year. Join us for any or all of these discussions. We hold our meetings at UUCM after church on second Sundays at 12:30 PM in the Channing Room. You are welcome to bring a snack or lunch to these meetings. We also offer the option of joining by Zoom, but please give at least one week's notice so we make sure to have equipment ready to welcome you.



July 13, 2025:
James by Percival Everett

2024, 303 pages
Facilitator: Jo Waters

When Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs away until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck has faked his own

death to escape his violent father. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

Brimming with nuanced humor and lacerating observations that have made Everett a literary icon, this brilliant and tender novel radically illuminates Jim's agency, intelligence, and compassion as never before. *James* is destined to be a major publishing event and a cornerstone of twenty-first century American literature.

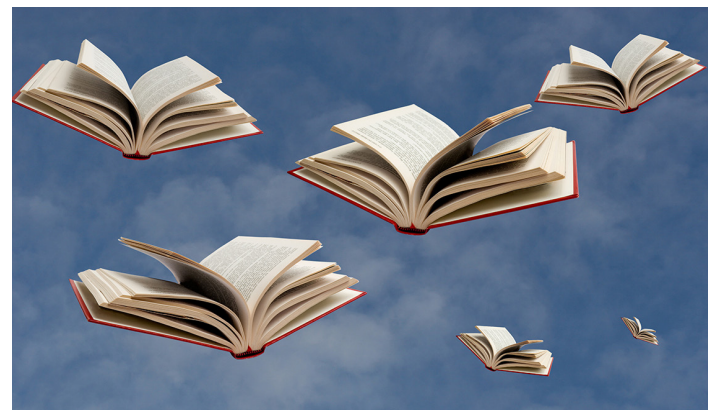
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Sunday Book Group Zoom

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

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Community Connections

WEEKLY @ UUCM

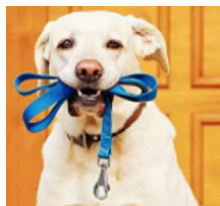
Subscribe to the weekly e-Chalice for Zoom links and phone numbers. If you need links, please contact our administrative assistant at Admin@uugrassvalley.org.

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

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, OFF-SITE -

MEET EARLIER AT 8:00 AM

DUE TO SUMMER HEAT

Email 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) 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

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

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

Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org



WOMEN'S GROUP

MONTHLY POTLUCK -

SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM

AT UUCM

Our next meeting is **Monday, July 14 at 6:00 PM at UUCM**. We will be having a potluck and then sharing a book review of a favorite book we

recommend. Bring the book if you are ready to pass it on. If you read only ebooks, no problem. We all love a good book suggestion. In addition, if you have nice quality magazines you want to pass on, you can also bring them to give away.

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.

HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, July 2, at 10:45 AM at UUCM, and our topic is: Affective polarization,

which is the increasing extent to which individuals from opposing political parties not only disagree on issues but also dislike and distrust each other. Affective polarization has significant consequences for democracy. It can undermine trust in democratic institutions, reduce the willingness of individuals to accept electoral losses, and impede bipartisan cooperation.

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.

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.

(Please view the UUCM website calendar for the most up to date meeting info.)



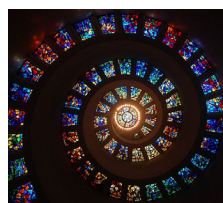
ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE

SECOND & FOURTH FRIDAYS,

1:00 TO 3:00 PM

AT UUCM -ALCOTT (REFRESHMENT) ROOM

Come and meet with other UUs on **Friday, July 11 and 25** at 1:00 PM to work on your own art or craft form! Enjoy each other's company while working on independent projects. No teacher or facilitator. Contact: arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org



SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE

FOURTH SATURDAYS, 2:00 - 3:30 PM,

ON-SITE AND VIA ZOOM

Questions? Need a Zoom link? Contact:

Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org

Two Big Kids and a Toddler Walk Into a Sanctuary

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family

Ministry Team Member

During the summer months, the number of children attending our Kids' Connection program on any given Sunday diminishes, understandably so. Nevada County living beckons with all that it has to offer during these vibrantly sunny months. Even so, we have some lovely days upstairs with the children who do find their way to us.

One Sunday, in early June, two big kids (five-year-olds) and a toddler (less than two years old) walked into our little sanctuary. That day provided me with a serene and heartwarming experience as I saw how these three children have taken ownership of the rituals we use in our little service upstairs each Sunday morning. As we left the downstairs sanctuary to the tune of *This Little Light of Mine*, the two five-year-olds darted up the stairs, while the toddler and I, hand in hand, took our time negotiating each big stair-step together. By the time we got into the sanctuary, the five-year-olds were well into the process of building our altar. This altar building routine has become so meaningful and familiar to them that they do not need any adult prompting or direction to carry it out. This ritual is one I am certain they will remember when they are old enough to have kids of their own.

That idea is one that guides Lindsay and me as we think about the learning experiences we create for the children. How can we create experiences that are powerful enough that they become integrated into the children's very identity as UUs?



On this day in early June, the building of the altar went on and on. The two older kids collaborated with each other, discussing their thoughts and decisions about which pieces to include and how to arrange them. The toddler eventually thought "enough already," and she sat down to read a book to herself while the other two dithered on about the placement of pinecones, feathers, and stars. Eventually, all three of them agreed that the altar was complete, and we celebrated with a group photo. You can see the pride of accomplishment in the faces and the thumbs up stances of the two older children, the primary designers of the altar on this day.



I am absolutely ebullient when we have energetic days with 12 children upstairs. And, days like this one in early June, when two big kids and a toddler walked into our sanctuary, are also heartwarming because they provide moments of closeness and intimacy in our connections with each other. No matter what, the spirit of Unitarian Universalism sustains all that we are and do with each other upstairs in our Kids' Connection program on Sunday mornings.

-Cheryl



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 - 12:30 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

Admin@uugrassvalley.org

Music@uugrassvalley.org

TELEPHONE

(530) 274-1661

(530) 274-1675

(530) 274-1675

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*