

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

August 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 11 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

### SUMMER THEME: Food for the Soul

#### August 3 What Feeds Your Soul?

Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Lindsay Dunkel,  
and You

Really. What feeds your soul?

#### August 10 Why I am a UU

Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Gail Schulz,  
with Randy McKean, Worship Associate

*Gail Schulz has been Unitarian or Unitarian Universalist, and very actively so, for a long time. Rev. Kevin has been UU for more than 35 years. In this conversational service, purchased by Gail at UUCM's auction, Gail and Rev. Kevin share why they became UU and why, after all this time, each of them stays. A heads up: they will also wonder aloud and ask you why you came and why you stay.*

#### August 17 Wisdom – A Five Course Meal

Rev. Diana Gibson and Gail Johnson Vaughan,  
Worship Associate

*And what do you feed your soul, he asked?*

*Wisdom, yes wisdom.*

*And where do you source wisdom?*

*In stories and song*

*In life and rhythm*

*From crones and babes*

*Come and find out for yourselves.*

#### August 24 What You Don't Know You Know:

*Poems for this Day*

Beth Karow, Rev. Kevin Tarsa. and more

*Beth Karow finds powerful, moving, meaningful poems and readings all year long, suggesting them to the Worship Team. The pieces don't always make it into Sunday services. In order to feed our souls, we immerse ourselves in some of those writings, as well as others, and in songs that speak to our lives and to this day.*

#### August 31 On Sabbath: Of Labor and Rest

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Carol Nimick, Worship Associate

*This Labor Day weekend, consider the nature of work and rest – in our over-working culture, in our psyches, in our bodies, in our spirits, and in our day-to-day lives – through the lens and spiritual practice of “sabbath.”*

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## The Minister

Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

### Food for the Soul

As I write, we are enjoying a blessedly comfortable series of days, and with the cooler temperatures my energy picks up pace. I've named this gift of relief from the heat "Michigan Summer" and I'm taking advantage of this summer spirit to give myself some extra breathing room by writing only a few lines here this month. It's a way of putting my own oxygen mask on first.

I encourage you to find your own breathing room this month. Yes, there is very much that calls for our compassion and energy and commitment and courage right now, and the needs are not going away anytime soon. So, in the framing of Erik Walker Wikstrom, I invite us all to utilize our "sacred no" at least once this month, for the sake of our personal oxygen levels, yes, and also for the sake of all the ways we yet hope to meet the world with our compassion, our deep values, and our love.

*With care,*

*- Rev. Kevin*

## MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS



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

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

## The Worship Team

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

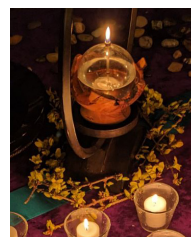
The theme for our summer services is Food for the Soul. During July and August, when Soul Matters is on hiatus, and we don't draw from their material, Rev. Kevin and the Worship Team will select a theme that is open-ended enough to encompass a range of services, topics, styles, and presenters.

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, August 14, 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.



## Board of Trustees

*Carol Richey, President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees*  
[President@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:President@uugrassvalley.org)

I'm guessing some of you dear readers will miss Taylor Carey's monthly articles. He kept us informed of the Board's work as well as his comments on current events all in a very enjoyable and provocative writing style. Thank you, Taylor, for your service on the Board and your meaningful contributions to this monthly newsletter!



This nice photo of your new Board of Trustees was taken on July 11, 2025, at our retreat. We took the day to get to know each other and to reflect on how we can focus our work and lead UUCM into the future. We also reflected on meaningful experiences we had at UUCM to remind ourselves of what we love about being a part of this congregation.

First a word about our Board members. **Gail Schulz** is our most senior member and is ending her second three-year term as Treasurer. With Taylor gone, we're down to one retired attorney on the Board. Gail has also been involved with six other UU churches and brings a depth of experience and wisdom. **Jeff Gold** has completed a two-year term as member at large and is now serving as Vice President. Jeff also has experience with other UU churches as well as being an extraordinary architect and familiar with all aspects of our building. **Lin Jovanovic**, the Board Secretary, is in her second year, an experienced UUer and long-time member of UUCM. She also brings experience as a psychologist and artist. **Charlene Dugan**, entering her second year as a member at large brings a depth of UU experience and life wisdom. She too, is a therapist, specializing in speech. I'm next, having finished six months as Vice President and now on to President. I'm new to Unitarian Universalism, with just six years at UUCM, and bring a background in executive management and finance. My naivete is evident here by taking on this position with the least amount of experience in church work. It's nice to be part of a strong team. **Gwen Eymann** and **Mark Grove** are the two newest members. Both began their UU journeys here at UUCM and bring a deep interest in all things UUCM to the Board. Mark is a retired winemaker, now musician, and Gwen

a retired Nurse Practitioner, still caring for people in every way she can. Of course, **Rev. Kevin** holds us all together with his loving care. UUCM is in good hands with the passion and commitment of this diverse team!

Now, about our work. At our retreat, we gave some focused time to discussing (and voting on) open questions currently on the mind of the Minister, Board and congregation. An open question asks what important issues or challenges confront the congregation yet evade ready answers. Your Board has not yet finalized their top three, but they are in the general area of:

- 1) How do we address short- and long-term space and building needs?
- 2) What aspects of our current organizational structure would you change to increase your engagement?
- 3) In what ways are we uniquely positioned to serve the world at this time?

Our goal is to come to the congregation in September for deep exploration of one of these open questions. This collaboration will inform the goal-setting choices for the Minister and Board that provide the leadership to fulfill our mission:

***With courageous love and a sense of wonder, we cultivate our spiritual, emotional, and intellectual strengths to create a world more compassionate, sustainable and just.***

I would love to hear from you! What would you like to know about the Board's work? What are your big open questions?

*In service,*

*- Carol*

### 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

*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.*



## Summer Fun!

### UUCMers in July 4 Parade

By Shannon Dooley-Miller

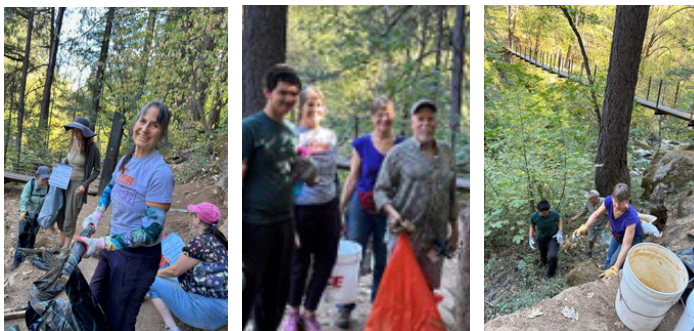
Citizen Climate Lobby with UUCM and other local faith communities were out marching for climate justice this year. Lots of yellow love shirts and familiar faces!



### Save the Date...

**SYRCL ANNUAL RIVER CLEAN-UP**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

Please contact [shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org) if you are interested in joining the UUCM river clean-up team. Meanwhile, enjoy some photos from LAST year's clean-up!



## Membership



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



**Both Janet Dunstan and Laurie Bell celebrated their birthdays by offering generous gifts to the Endowment Fund!**

**AND - thanks to MANY contributions over MANY years – our Endowment Fund has crossed the \$100,000 threshold! We are so grateful to be ensuring a UUCM in the future!**

**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](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

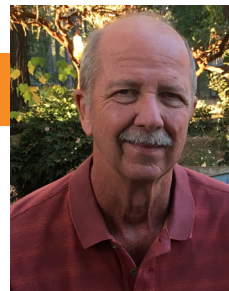
### Are You Facing a Life Challenge?

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, Gwen Eymann, Carol Grant, Sue Gregory, 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*





Ruth Edwards  
UUCM Historian

## UUCM History Corner

### Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Passing the Flame, and a Change of Location

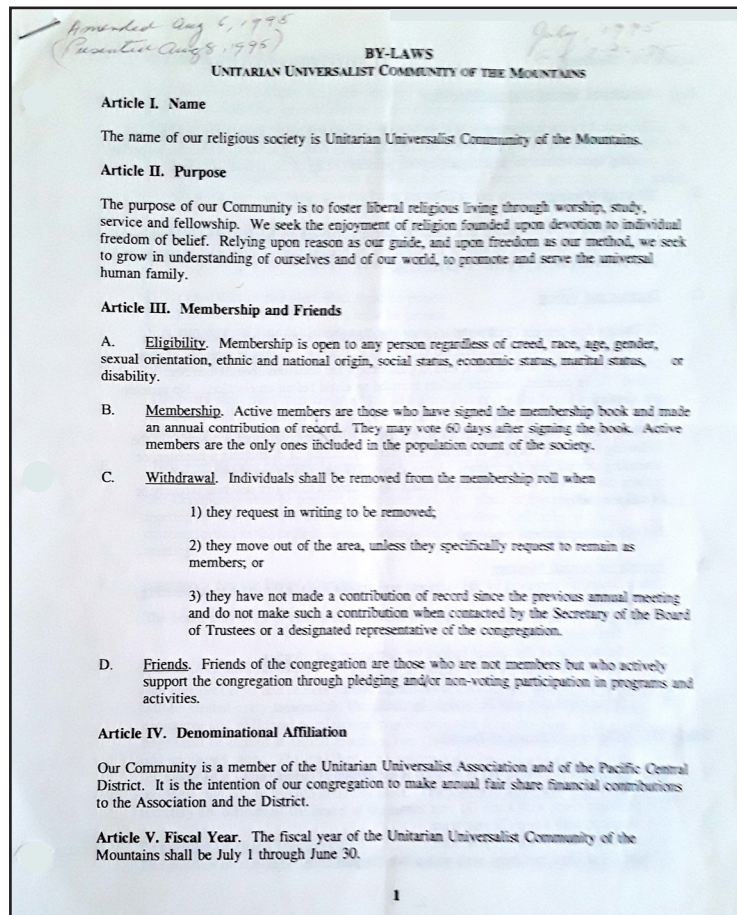
During August 1995 the momentum continued toward UUCM becoming an 'official' church. An Articles of Incorporation document is legally required for a church to obtain non profit status. It is a relatively straight forward document for non profit organizations. It required signatures of those vested in the organization. UUCM's document was signed by members of the Boards. The Articles document was filed on November 30, 1995.

The bylaws were a bit more complicated because this document established organizational structure. UUCM's original was eight pages long and was modeled after the bylaws of two other UU churches. The current bylaws for UUCM have 14 pages and has been updated 14 times (the last time being in January 2025).

The Bylaws Committee had been established in March, 1995. The Committee proposed a deadline of the end of July. Initially there was no section on the Minister. However, the team was certain UUCM would eventually have a minister so Article VIII was included.

Article VIII had seven subsections. These subsections have remained through the years with some additions and changes of wording. The bylaws were accepted by the Board on July 31 and were passed at a congregational meeting on August 6 with only two small changes. The original bylaws lasted seven years with the first amending occurring on May 19, 2002.

UUCM had also organized itself into committees to do the work of the group early in 1995. The organizational Chart showed the Planning Committee at the head with John Church as Chair and 11 members. The Committees were RE, Finance, Program, Membership and Publicity with two ad hoc committees – Bylaws and Long Range Planning. Each committee had developed time lines for reaching goals through February 1996. The Planning Committee dissolved when the first Board was elected on September 24, 1995. The Board consisted of John Church as President, Bonnie Bennett as President-Elect, Jeanie Faulk as Secretary, John van der Veen as Treasurer, and Sarah Heinsel, Paul Malmuth, and Dave Marsden as At-Large. The Committees continued on as before after the election of the Board.



UUCM By-Laws in 1995

The twice-a-month Sunday afternoon meeting was at the library in Nevada City. There was growing sentiment for a different space with more room, more storage and a larger space for RE and to have services every week. Beginning on September 24, 1995, UUCM began meeting at the Nevada City Elementary School in Nevada City. The group also began having services every week on Sunday at 4:00 PM. The Passing of the Flame service with the Sierra Foothills church which took place in Auburn at SFUU on October 22, 1995 established UUCM as a completely separate group from SFUU.

There is a new bulletin board display now located on the History bulletin board in the small room off the coffee room. The subject is the various places that the group met in 1994-1995 and the presentations that were offered at the Sunday services. Please continue your 1995 UUCM history lesson by enjoying the bulletin board.

– Ruth

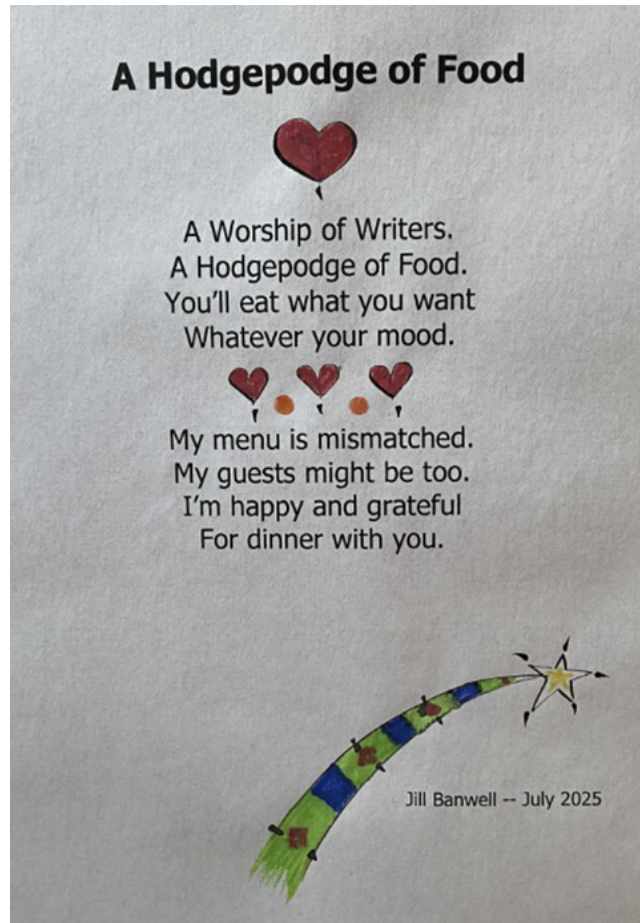
### Food for the Soul

by Jenny Dewey

When I was little my family rode on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad in the summers, going east to Chicago and back west to our ranch in New Mexico. My grandfather was often with us. He loved trains.

Grandpa had a private car, a caboose at the very end of the train. When we traveled together Grandpa often invited me for dinner. The caboose was as no ordinary caboose. It was fitted out with brass fixtures, a table with a linen tablecloth, candlesticks, real silver forks, knives and spoons and beautiful plates with flowers on them. I watched while Grandpa cooked dinner. We had creamed spinach, lamb chops with tiny white hats on them, mashed potatoes, puffy dinner rolls with lots of butter and ice cream for dessert.

Looking back on those dinners I remember how proud I was to be with my grandpa. I felt whole and I was happy.



*One of Jill Banwell's delightfully poetic menus.*

Edna, the cook on our ranch, tended a half-acre vegetable garden. One of my chores as a child was to help her pick peas, green beans, onions, and strawberries. My favorite were the onions. I crawled on my stomach along the rows of onions, pulling one every now and then and chomping on it. I washed the dirt off at a faucet by the fence.

I still taste the onions and I still hear Edna saying there will be no onions for the pea soup if I keep on eating them.

The sun was hot on my back in the garden. Flies were a constant distraction. I forgot about the heat and the flies. Working with Edna in the garden was a time of peace. I was safe.

And then there was Mrs. Trujillo. She and her husband cut and delivered firewood. The Trujillo's were poor. My family was well-off and the pantry in our kitchen was full.

I have enduring memories of meals where there was no table and the flatware was plastic.

The Navajo People live in Canyon de Chelly in the summers, their ancestral home. They cook meals over wood fires under stands of cottonwoods. Darkness falls and fireflies dance in the willows by the stream. Meat from a butchered lamb and fried potatoes were the usual dinner-fare. Breakfast was fried potatoes and tortillas.

Under the trees with my Navajo family, I scraped every morsel of food off my tin plate. My heart and my stomach were always full. I knew I belonged and I was content.

I started stealing canned goods out of the pantry and taking them to Mrs. Trujillo. She never let me go home without giving me something in return for what I'd given her. It might have been a few roasted green chilies or tortillas wrapped up in a small piece of cloth.

My crimes were never discovered, although I am certain Edna knew. Mrs. Trujillo's smile, the food she gave me, changed me forever. A deep sense of satisfaction arose in my soul for having given her a gift she really needed.

### Bending the Arc Task Force

By Gail Johnson-Vaughan



#### VIRGINIA POSTCARD BLAST OFF

It's been a wild ride with lots of atmospheric interference, but they can't slow down the UUCM Get-Out-The-Vote Postcard Campaign. The nation is watching what happens in the Virginia General Election this fall. Once again we will do our part to see that all registered Black voters in Virginia know the critical issues at

stake and how to find the info they need to get to the polls. Our goal for this campaign is 6,000 postcards.

#### WHY DOES THIS STATE ELECTION MATTER?

Virginia is considered a bellwether state for the 2026 midterms. To understand the impact of Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) postcarding, the historic comparison shows that "likely African-American" voters' turnout in the 2024 primary was 16,992; in 2025 (after our ROV campaign) it was 44,374...more than double! Virginia has seen thousands of its citizens lose their jobs due to DOGE, and a 350% increase in immigrant arrests, more than any other state.

Packets of 20 postcards, stamps, info labels, script, and samples will be available starting Sunday, July 27. Many of you have already ordered your packets for a total of 5,000 postcards ordered! Those packets will have your name on them and will be waiting for you on the left end of the postcard table in the foyer. Others of you prefer to sign out single packets from the postcard table. You will find those on the right end.

Many of you know that the price of postcard stamps went up again on July 13. It now costs UUCM \$13 for each packet. We are so grateful for those of you who can and do reimburse us that amount for each packet. We are also very grateful for those of you who donate funds to cover the costs of the writers who can't. As usual you will find a large jar on the postcard table and small envelopes for your checks or cash. *(Please make sure to mark cash with your name so we know which packets have been paid for and who to credit for the donation.)*

#### MONDAY POSTCARD PARTIES RESUME

By popular demand Monday morning postcard writing parties will resume Monday, July 28 starting at 9:00 AM. Drop in anytime between 9-11:30 for a fun morning making a difference and getting to know your fellow postcarders. Bring colored pens if you have them.

### Share the Plate

UUCM's July Share the Plate recipient, [Color Me Human](#) received \$1000, 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, [Child Advocates of Nevada County](#).



Our August Share the Plate recipient is [Bear Yuba Land Trust](#). BYLT exists to protect and defend the working and natural lands of the Bear and Yuba River Watersheds and empower healthy, resilient communities through nature access and education. They also support tribal priorities, including returning land to tribal families and communities, consistent with their mission to preserve the natural, scenic, and cultural resources of these lands.

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



#### Hospitality House Donations

Our continued generous support of Hospitality House is greatly appreciated by the guests and staff!

#### Currently, Needed Items Are:

- Men's casual pants and shorts
- Men's casual short sleeve button down shirts
- Towels and blankets
- Twin-Size Fitted Sheets
- NEW Pillows
- NEW Toiletries - Shampoo, Conditioner, Razors, Soap – travel size are ideal.)

*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.



# Community Connections

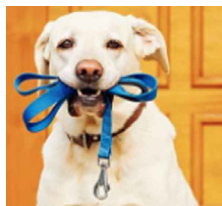
## WEEKLY @ UUCM

[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](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

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, OFF-SITE -

**MEET AT 8:00 AM**

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**

**OFF SITE AT PIONEER PARK**

**Our next meeting is Monday, August 11 at 6:00 PM at Pioneer Park picnic area by the creek.** Car

pooling encouraged. Let's bring a variety of salads and cold foods to make it easy. Shannon Dooley-Miller, Ellen Goodwin and Kathryn Young are organizing. Look for more information coming to your computer in early August.

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**

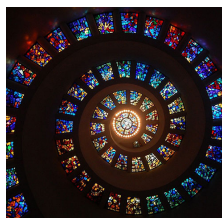
**Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 6, at 10:45 AM at UUCM, and our topic is: Collaborative Consumption and Reputation Capital.**

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](mailto:Humanism@uugrassvalley.org).

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



### SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE

**FOURTH SATURDAYS, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, ON-SITE AND VIA ZOOM**

Questions? Need a Zoom link? Contact: [Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org)

### GOT SPIRITUALITY? WANT MORE?

By *Scottie Hart*

*"Essentially, spirituality refers to the fundamental openness of human nature to transcendent experience, that is, an encounter with others which takes us beyond or 'out' of ourselves."* - Richard Woods

Whether you agree or disagree with Richard Woods, whether you think he's spot-on or needs editing, the blend of sharing and silence in UUCM's Spirituality Sharing Circle might appeal to you. Keeping in mind that it is not a discussion group, most months we tend to find ourselves touching the edge of The Numinous together. **Next Circle: August 23, 2025**

## Connections...



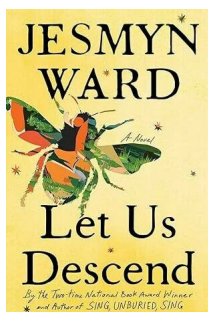
**ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE**  
**SECOND & FOURTH FRIDAYS, 1-3:00 PM**  
**AT UUCM -ALCOTT (REFRESHMENT) ROOM**

Come and meet with other UUs on **Friday, August 8 and 22** 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](mailto:arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org)

## 2nd Sunday Book Group

**USUALLY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:30 PM**  
**IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM**  
**CONTACT:** [Books@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Books@uugrassvalley.org)

Our book group is reads variety of fiction and non-fiction books. Join us for any or all of these discussions. We meet 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.



August 10, 2025:  
***Let Us Descend*** by Jesmyn Ward

2023, 305 pages  
Facilitator: Maureen McNair

Written by two-time National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward, *Let Us Descend* is a reimagining of American slavery, as beautifully rendered as it is heart-wrenching. Searching, harrowing, replete

with transcendent love, the novel is a journey from the rice fields of the Carolinas to the slave markets of New Orleans and into the fearsome heart of a Louisiana sugar plantation.

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### [Sunday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

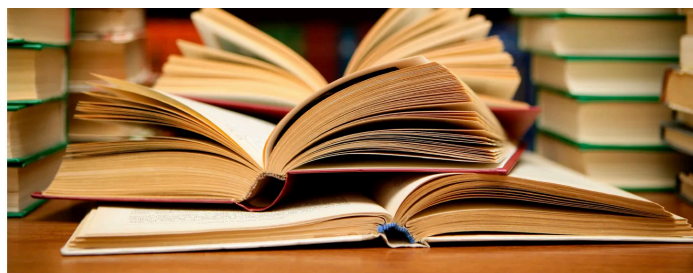
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» » » **PLEASE NOTE** « « «

***We plan to select books for the next few months  
at our August meeting, so please bring your  
recommendations!***

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## UUCM Library News



### *The Refreshed UUCM Library is Open for Business*

*By Kate Canan*

The UUCM Library is open again for book checkout. In the past few months, books have been purged, sorted, and purchased, shelves are labeled, and a book checkout notebook was rediscovered.

We are not dogmatic about how long a book can be kept. We leave the length of your free and responsible search for truth and meaning, aided by the books you check out, up to your individual conscience. Please do consider the interdependent web of our congregation and the principle of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. (Two to three weeks is reasonable.) Please note the title and checkout/return dates in the notebook. Return books to the basket for reshelfing. (Sometimes old school is easiest.)

We want to be intentional about what books are donated and purchased. If you have a suggestion or offering, please contact Kate Canan at [library@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:library@uugrassvalley.org). We cannot at this time take magazines or fiction. Categories we offer include the following:

- UU history, theology, and spirituality
- Leadership resources
- UU influences from other world religions, atheism and humanism
- Poetry, creativity, and sermon writing
- Pastoral care, including addiction/recovery, aging, death, and grieving.
- Racial, political, and environmental justice
- Works by UUCM authors

Many thanks to those who helped with the library project, including Janet Dunstan, Penny Harlan, Anne Merdinger, Shannon and Andy Dooley-Miller, Bodhi Busick, Gene Gilligan, and of course the Rev. Kevin Tarsa.

Happy reading!



## Community and Connection in Action

*By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member*

So many of the activities that are available for the grownups who make up our UUCM congregation are also available for our children who attend Kids' Connection upstairs on Sunday mornings. For example, just as the grownups often gather together downstairs to share their spirits and energy while working side by side on their individual art or craft projects, so do our children. On one Sunday in mid-July, four of our youngsters chose on their own to sit together while they painted. I was heartened as I watched them share materials and talk to each other about their artistic decisions related to the pieces they were producing. Even more impressive to me were their conversations about their lives more generally. I was witnessing evidence of community and connection in action.

The children's needs for community and connection are as palpable as the grownups' needs for community and connection. Upstairs we have beautiful, well-supplied spaces and a thoughtfully designed program that meets our children's needs just as the grownups have spaces and supplies and programs available downstairs that meet their varied needs.

I'd like to close by suggesting that the deeply appreciated adults who spend time upstairs in service to our children and the Kids' Connection program are quick to acknowledge that their own needs for community and connection are met on a regular basis through their Family Ministry service.

If you would like to experience some of this special form of community and connection, please reach out to Cheryl Spaulding and/or Lindsay Dunckel at [familyministry@uugrassvalley.com](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.com) or in person.







## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: [uugrassvalley.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Minister@uugrassvalley.org)

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

[Music@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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*