

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

November 2025

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Services are at 9:00 AM Onsite ONLY, and 11:00 AM Onsite **and** Zoom **and** Kids' Connection. *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 11:00 AM ON SUNDAYS:

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

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

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

Meeting ID: 746 107 217 # • Passcode: 688010

... See Page 13 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

NOVEMBER THEME: Nurturing Gratitude

NOTE: Clocks Change on Sunday, November 2:

FALL BACK ONE HOUR!

NEW!: Starting this month: TWO Service Times:

9:00 AM (onsite only) and 11:00 AM both onsite & Zoom

Nov. 2 **Appreciating our Ancestors**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Beth Karow,
Worship Associate

As the nights lengthen and the days become noticeably shorter (and we set our clocks back an hour!) we find ourselves, yet again, in the time between the Autumnal Equinox and the Winter Solstice. Known by names such as Samhain, Dia De Muertos, Halloween, and more, many believe the veil between the worlds of the Living and the Dead is thinnest at this time of year. It is thus a good time to reflect upon and remember our beloved (and maybe not so beloved) Dead. Together we'll add our photos and objects to a community altar honoring those who have gone before us, and offer gratitude for the legacy of lessons, gifts, and challenges they have bestowed upon us.

Nov. 9 **Thank Goodness! Finding Gratitude in the Midst of, well, Everything**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Cheryl Morris,
Worship Associate

One year out from the 2024 presidential election, many of us feel the weight and the worry of the unmaking of so much of what supported, if often imperfectly, our values in the life of the nation. We like to say and believe that disintegration, though painful, can

open rare space for something powerfully new. Are we there yet?

Nov. 16 **Gratefulness from Scratch: Gratitude Recipes Among Us**
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Lindsay Dunckel,
Worship Associate, and You

In this recipe exchange of sorts, we'll share with each other some of the gratitude tools, techniques, tips, insights – gratitude recipes – we've garnered over our years. What's your tried-and-true, go-to recipe? Or how have you learned to work creatively with the ingredients at hand?

Nov. 23 **The Rad-itude of Gratitude**
Randy McKean, Worship Associate

Continued on Page 4...

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Nurturing Gratitude

Since UUCM and I are now into our 10th year together, and the congregation is celebrating its first 30 years as a UUA congregation, that means we've been sharing this journey for almost one third of the congregation's lifespan! And nearly a sixth of mine! We've been accruing a meaningful mutual influence upon one another over these years, and meanwhile, our individual lives and the wide world continue to unfold without asking for our approval or permission, and we find our way together as each day, as each year, as each meeting and service and conversation arrives.

The words of Dag Hammarskjöld thus come to mind and heart: "For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes."

True, I feel, even when what "will be" is yet so very unknown.

The reason I feel able to say that Hammarskjöld's words are true, at least for me and even in this moment in time, is that though there are many specific people and actions here for which I am deeply thankful, it is the quality and qualities of our journeying together that affirm the uncertain path ahead with a "yes." It is not a "yes" that comes from carefully measuring the pros and cons of any particular route or destination, but that comes from recognizing – from knowing – that together we will find our way.

May your own gratitude be meaningfully nurtured this month in everything we do at and through UUCM and through your own practices and experiences, so much so that "thanks" is what passes of its own accord through your heart and your lips in response to all that has been, and that "yes" is the perhaps surprisingly ready exclamation for all that will be.

With care,

– Rev. Kevin

Two services: More than the sum of the parts.

I want to thank you again for your willingness to give an added Sunday service a try, especially those of you who are responsible for enabling it to happen – those of you who greet or will greet, those of you who set up, kindly host, and clean up after refreshments, or who will; those of you who imagine, design, build, and facilitate our Sunday services; those of you who dance with the technology on our behalf so that we can hear and see, even from afar; those of you who hold room for our young ones to discover and grow; those of you who make music, and lead movement, and breathe words, insights, and poetry into our midst; those of you who arrange beauty and visual food for reflection, those of you whose efforts enable and create community on a Sunday morning. Or who will.

Thank you for imagining beyond your own ease and comfort, for your willingness to be inconvenienced, for acting with compassion which leads you to make room for more people who are looking for what you've already found or hope to find, and for living into UUCM's mission in this way.

I've named before the significant goodwill and generosity I recognize in people's willingness to move beyond what is currently familiar, especially after the arrival of COVID. Thank you for engaging this returning experiment with heart and mind and hand and flexibility.

Thank you. I hope that there will now be enough room to invite more of your friends.

– 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

Carol Richey, President,
UUCM Board of Trustees
President@uugrassvalley.org

Imagine the Possibilities

"I like your shirts!" "I've heard of your church." I was proud to wear my yellow "Side with Love" T-shirt to the No Kings protest gathering in Grass Valley and respond to the attention they brought. It was nice to see many people from UUCM engage in the gathering and to be surrounded by people who love our country and want to change the current direction of political undoing. It was an uplifting experience and both serious and entertaining at the same time. Laughter is good medicine after taking in the chaos of news these days.

The board continued to refine our guidelines for responding to a visit from immigration agents, if that should happen, under the leadership of Taylor Carey. We should have some simple steps to follow in print and posted in the building soon. The board also voted in favor of changing UUCM's banking relationship. We will be transitioning our accounts from Tri Counties Bank to River Valley Community Bank. We're looking forward to high standards of customer service as well as the possibility of borrowing if that becomes necessary. We currently carry no debt but believe it is a good strategy to have an open line of credit. The congregation will be informed or involved if we do need to go into debt for any reason.

With the theme "Imagine" being used for this year's stewardship campaign, I have also been hearing the word "imagine" used in describing people's reactions to seeing the Squirrel Creek Road church facility we are currently evaluating. About 75 people have visited and have imagined numerous uses for the larger space and grounds. But with imagination, more challenging questions also arise. "It's so big, do we need this much space?" "Can we really afford this?" "How are we going to take care of such a large facility?" I too have asked these questions and many others as we imagine if this could possibly be our new home. I have come to realize that the facts of today are that clear and answerable questions about the future don't exist when it comes to having faith in what we have to offer. Rev. Kevin has shared those facts with us as he has led us through the process of adding a second service. For some people, the sanctuary is overfilled on Sundays, parking can be a challenge, social space is limited, accessibility is difficult. What we don't know is how many more people will join us if we can eliminate all of those and other challenges.

The Facilities Exploration Committee, the board, staff, and friends are working hard to discover and then provide as much information as possible to allow the membership to vote for their vision of our future. We welcome all comments and questions and want to know what's on your mind. Your first opportunity to do that in a community meeting is November 9 after the second service on Sunday. Come, have a pizza lunch and talk about the benefits and risks of moving as well as your personal preferences, beliefs, and experiences.

Side With Love. I'm looking forward to a lively conversation!

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

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. A reminder is sent in the eChalice at least a week ahead, and a Zoom link can be found on the Board Meeting event page of our website.

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



Change is in the air! November brings the start of having two Sunday services, plus in-depth study of the possibility of moving to a new church building. The Worship Team is trying to stay grounded and speak to the needs of today while tackling the challenge of offering two services and exercising our imaginations as to what could be possible in a new church home.

You may notice a few changes on Sunday mornings. We will be working to streamline services without diminishing their content and impact. The 9:00 AM service will only be available onsite (not by Zoom) and will not have Kids' Connection. The 11:00 AM service will be available both onsite and by Zoom, and will include Kids' Connection.

We may be asking for readers and service participants "the morning of," rather than in advance. If asked, we hope you will say yes! But please say no if it's not within your comfort zone that morning.

Most importantly, we will want feedback as the month goes on. What feels good, what feels "off"? What would you like to see more of, or less of? What are your ideas to help us make both services feel welcoming, substantial, and community-building?

We're all in this together!

- Cheryl & Carol



Upcoming Soul Matters Themes

November:	Nurturing Gratitude
December:	Choosing Hope
January:	Practicing Resistance
February:	Embodying Resilience
March:	Paying Attention
April:	Embracing Possibility
May:	Awakening Curiosity
June:	Flourishing Together

Monthly Evening Service



Join us for an Evening Contemplative Service

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

This month's service:

Monday, November 3, 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, Cont.

Continued from Page 1...

Nov. 23 *The Rad-itude of Gratitude*
Randy McKean, Worship Associate

In these days of hyper-consumerism and transactional politics, the revolution begins at home. Being grateful for the things we have, seeing life as a gift, is the first step in dismantling the oppressive forces of capitalism. On this Sunday before Thanksgiving and its evil twin Black Friday, we examine the radical nature of gratitude.

Nov. 30 *What Are You Waiting For?*
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Carol Nimick,
Worship Associate

Transitioning from the gifts of November's focus on cultivating gratitude, to December's theme of choosing hope, we draw on the tradition of Advent (meaning "arrival"), a season of anticipation, reflection, and preparation in various Christian traditions, to check in with our own personal and collective anticipations. What arrivals are you awaiting?

Stewarding Guidance

Save the Date for a Fabulous Evening!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Plans are underway for our February 28 "Imagine" celebration. This no-charge, sit-down dinner will kick off our spring pledge drive. During the dinner, we will not be discussing pledges or providing pledge cards. Instead, we will celebrate who we are and what we can do. Bring your ideas, questions, experience, and hopes. We will provide more details soon.

Hope to see you there!

YOUR STEWARDSHIP 2026 TEAM,
Charlene Dugan, Paul Elias, Ellen Goodwin, Keith Johnson,
Gail Schulz and Kathryn Young



Who we can **BE**, what we can **DO**...



Come to the Spring 2026 Retreat SAVE THE DATES!

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1, 2026

The PCUW&R returns to Enchanted Hills in the redwoods west of Napa, California, now completely renovated and more enchanting than ever. Workshops will include music, art and dance, nature walks through the redwoods, and more.

Cost will be \$430 for the weekend, including all lodging and meals. **Register with a minimum \$100 deposit before December 15 to get a \$30 early bird discount!**

We hope to see you there!

<https://womenandreligionpcd.org/register>

On the Side of Love



Rev. Kevin and Rochelle Elias in their yellow shirts – one of the cool things about being a UU is seeing other UUs out in public, demonstrating how much they care!



Endowment

Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org



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
Coordinator, UUCM Parish Care
Caring@uugrassvalley.org

WE ALL NEED EXTRA CARE SOMETIMES ON OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE.

UUCM Parish Care 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 volunteers also send cards of caring and celebration, make friendly phone calls and visits, and assist 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 Volunteer Survey](#) to identify tasks you would be willing to do on occasion. The Parish Care coordinator 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

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, and Corrie Silva, or you can email the whole team: LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org

Christmas Giving Tree

UUCM Care Team Presents our Annual Christmas Giving Tree

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

The Christmas Giving Tree will appear in the foyer on November 15, marking the start of our annual tradition of providing Christmas gifts to children in our community. Building on the success of our partnership last year with Child Advocates of Nevada County's CASA program, we will again be buying books for the children they serve, most of whom are in foster care.

The children range in age from infants to teens. The Giving Tree will have tags with a child's initials, age, gender, and subjects they are interested in. Please purchase three books for each child. You can team up with a friend to share the cost and the fun of choosing the books if you wish.

The Book Seller in Grass Valley and Harmony Books in Nevada City are offering a 20% discount when you present the tag at the time of purchase. We can give the gift of reading to a child and support our local independent bookstores.

Take a tag from the tree and be sure to sign for it on the clipboard. There will be someone at the tree to help you. Wherever you buy your books, be sure to keep the tag to label your gift! The books should be wrapped with the tag clearly visible on the outside of the package and ***must be returned no later than Sunday, December 7.***





Art and Aesthetics Team

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

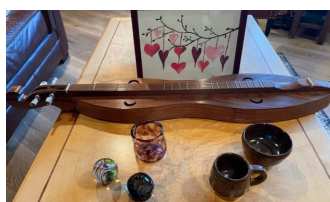
Meet the Arts and Aesthetics Team



Shanti Emerson

When I moved to Nevada County 25 years ago, I wanted to pursue something different than I had done before—study art. I took classes in clay, painting, and experimented

with collage. This journey awakened my creative potential, which had been dormant for far too long. I fell in love with my artwork and showcased it at the Center for the Arts, the Altar Show, and the Nevada County Fair. Creating art has not only enriched my life but has also become a vital and fulfilling aspect of who I am.



Mark Grove

I can remember loving many forms of art from a very early age – drawing, painting, pottery, woodcarving and music – mostly from classes

in school. As a teenager, music became my primary form of self-expression, and I eventually started building my own instruments – I built my first banjo from scratch at the age of 15. Later in life, I took up building stringed instruments more seriously – creating guitars, dulcimers, banjos, and performing restorations on old or broken instruments. Recently, I've made a return to my youth by working in acrylics, drawing, throwing pottery, and even some glassblowing.



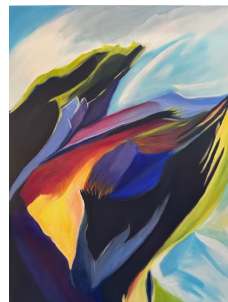
Robin Hart

Art has always been the center of my life. At the age of three, I announced that I was going to be an artist when I grew up. I have pursued both a professional career as a graphic artist/designer and expressed my personal creativity in fine art.

During college, one of my professors encouraged me to incorporate my passions into my art. I had always been fascinated with astronomy and the space program. When I integrated that subject matter into my work, I had

an explosion of creativity that has continued over the years.

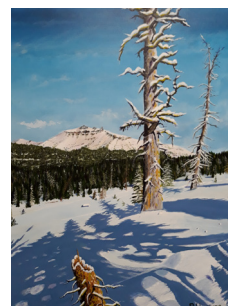
I have participated in art shows and galleries, had my space artwork on international tour, published in three books, and received awards and recognition. Over the years I have used a wide range of media. In early 2000s, I began to move most of my creative endeavors over to digital media, which has been liberating. In recent years I have also delved into the world of art quilting. I am doing the majority of my art pieces today as art quilts.



Laura Harter

Nature is at the heart of any image I create. I like the process of creating images whether I am composing a photo or painting. I love the clarity and simplicity of design and illustration. I love how documentary photography lets a person, place, or object reveal something of itself. But I've let go of

the discipline of representational art to explore beauty and mystery that I find in abstract images. I enjoy the freedom of discovering an image, letting it emerge on a page.



Phil Horning

I have always had a great interest in observing nature close by and in natural settings such as the National Parks and National Forests. Nature provides inspiration for me particularly when I am out hiking, biking, or skiing through the landscape. I try to capture views, moments, or experiences that

are particularly meaningful to me and hopefully share the experience with others. I also have traveled extensively. My interest in art started as a young boy and it led me to become a landscape architect. After retiring I returned to painting as a creative outlet.



Linda Siska

I have tried many art forms over the years — art quilts, felting, folk art painting, acrylics, watercolors, Zentangle — but one thing has always eluded me, my own artistic voice. I am currently experimenting with combinations of Zentangle, watercolor, colored pencil, and most recently, urban sketching, all in

pursuit of that elusive voice. I think I may be getting closer, but I know I'm not there yet. Still, the journey is both delightful and enlightening; I am so grateful to have art in my life.

Please note: For space considerations, the artist bios were abbreviated. Full bios can be found in the September Mt. Chalice on our website.



Ruth Edwards
UUCM Historian

UUCM History Corner

The Community Brainstorms Its Vision

By Ruth Edwards and Annie Haymaker

With the election of the first board and the move from twice-monthly to weekly services in September 1995, and the separation from SFUU in October, the fledgling UUCM congregation focused on envisioning its church by prioritizing its needs. The Long-Range Planning Committee organized six to eight brainstorming sessions, as well as an October 29 potluck, to solicit more ideas. From more than 40 items generated by this process, the committee produced a comprehensive overall needs document on December 10, 1995, with their highest and next-highest priorities for 1996. (See document on the right.)

On the second page of this document, they listed the need for programs...

1. ...to provide intimacy and authenticity
2. ...to give us a sense of belonging and support
3. ...to help clarify our identity in the world and meet the needs of the wider community
4. ...to provide a means to carry on our values
5. ...to provide fulfillment and a sense of meaning
6. ...to provide organizational integrity and effectiveness through democratic processes
7. ...to gain appreciation of our historical identity as a larger movement
8. ...to deepen, expand, and energize our religious experiences

It's interesting to compare these program needs to UUCM's current programs, 30 years later. Though there are now more members and a paid staff, the program intentions have remained remarkably consistent.

— Ruth

"What Needs Do We Have Which this Congregation Can Help Meet?"

Consensus for 1996 Actions by Overall Needs Group

12/10/95

We explored what needs we have that this congregation can meet (chart on wall) and discussed what we should do to meet those needs in 1996. Of the many things we would like to see done (complete list on back), it is our consensus that the following are the highest priority for 1996:

- Make a serious financial commitment to Religious Education
- Insure our worship services have inspirational and challenging themes
- Encourage small groups by allowing time for them to share with the congregation

In order, the following actions represent the next highest priorities:

- Make a commitment of financial resources to provide live music often
- Visiting and providing appropriate support for people or families in need
- Consistently communicate our values through actions, programs, and advertising
- "Meet Your Neighbor" time during services
- Setup an idea box or identify a person to receive new ideas
- Develop programs to help each other prepare for death
- Purchase a religious education curriculum
- Encourage leadership training courses
- Continue "meet and greet" at the door
- Choose an annual social action focus

Fledgling UUCM Exploration of Needs from 1995



Anita Wald-Tuttle as "Beatrix Potter" on October 19, 2025
with Ruth Edwards and Shannon Dooley Miller

Nurturing Creativity

A First Person Profile by Randy McKean

Many of you know me as a musician, but my day job is IT Support for Placer County Office of Education. I have a longish commute every day, an hour each way, from my home in Grass Valley to my office in Rocklin. During the drive, I like to listen to podcasts, and one of my favorites is *Pablo Held Investigates*, in which pianist Held interviews his fellow jazz musicians. The latest episode featured Larry Grenadier, a New York bass player in his late fifties who has played with many of the greats, including tenor sax legends Stan Getz and Joe Henderson. Toward the end of the podcast, Grenadier and Held talk about that generation of players who came up during the 1950s and 1960s and their pride in what they did. Grenadier tells Held that he saw bass player Miroslav Vitouš, a founding member of the 1970s jazz fusion super group Weather Report, perform a solo concert. Afterward they were having dinner together. Grenadier said to Vitouš, "The concert tonight was incredible." Vitouš replied "Yes, it was." This prompts a laugh, but Grenadier goes on to say that there was a certain cockiness in that generation that served the music well. Held recalls an interview of saxophonist Wayne Shorter in which Shorter observed that often we are told to keep our egos in check, but sometimes there are moments in performance when we need the ego to get us to a certain place. When that happens, we are not working for the ego, we are making the ego work for us.

The first part of October was unusually busy for me musically. I was fortunate to do a quick tour of the Northwest with the Pocket Quartet (sharing the bill in Olympia, Washington with my son Callum!), followed by gigs with Beaucoup Chapeaux and Tumble Trio when I returned home. I wish I had heard this podcast interview prior to this burst of performances. Each gig was incredible, but after each one I was left with a lingering sense that I could have played better, that I could have brought more to the music. I often find myself second guessing my choices on the bandstand, which can make the music suffer. After pondering these observations from Grenadier and Held that the ego can be of use, it dawns on me that this persistent self-doubt—a cornerstone of my persona that I've told myself keeps my excesses in check—may actually prevent great things from happening. Believing in your abilities, listening to your instincts, sensing what you can bring to a given situation, involves a healthy amount of trust in yourself. But nothing can come of an idea, musical or otherwise, if it is not communicated to those around us. During November our service theme is "Nurturing Gratitude." Let's be grateful that we can cultivate, nurture, and bring our whole, confident selves, including our egos, to our relationships and put those egos to our full creative potential.



Justice News and Activities

Share the Plate

UUCM's September *Share the Plate* recipient, [Habitat for Humanity](#) will receive over \$957, 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 October partner, [Sierra Roots](#).



Our November *Share the Plate* recipient is [Bright Futures for Youth](#). Bright Futures for Youth is a non-profit that provides life-changing programs to 500 children and young adults every month in our community. Bright Futures for Youth—created by the merger of The Friendship Club and NEO Youth Center in 2020—has three core programs: The Friendship Club, NEO, and SAFE, which helps youth facing housing insecurity. Bright Futures for Youth programs connect youth to positive experiences, relationships, and environments to build resiliency today and into the future. The original organization started in 1995.

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 and Women's Underwear/Bras
- Men's and Women's Shoes
- Men's Casual Pants, Long- and Short-Sleeved T-Shirts
- Men's Jackets and Sweatshirts
- Twin-Size Fitted Sheets
- Towels and Blankets
- NEW Pillows and Pillow Cases
- NEW Toiletries - Shampoo, Conditioner, Razors, Soap – *Travel size 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.

Thank you for your generosity, Laurie Bell & Keith Johnson



November Update

RECYCLING PROGRAM EXPANDED WITH NEW LOCATION!

There's a new way to support the IFM Food Bank by donating your CRV, (CA Redemption Value) as in the beverage containers that you pay a deposit on: Donate them to IFM on the fourth Saturday of each month!

COMING UP:

Saturday November 29 and Saturday December 27
Peace Lutheran Church, 828 W. Main St., Grass Valley,
9:00 AM – Noon, rain or shine.

This is great for IFM because instead of your CRV going to Waste Management Nevada County (WM is supportive of IFM's donation program), the CRV money goes to IFM. IFM has been helped to the tune of \$1,000+/month by a similar donation program at Lake Wildwood. Big thanks to those organizers who are also managing the Peace Lutheran collection. This collection site will also take your paper and plastic grocery bags, as our volunteers Ellen, Carol, and Cynthia know well, to use for food bank weekly distributions.

THANKSGIVING AND HOLIDAY FOOD UPDATE

The IFM Board approved an additional \$20,000 so that IFM will be able to provide Thanksgiving food this year. Our holiday food distributions will look a little different with budget cutbacks but will keep the tradition going for families to enjoy a special meal together for the holidays!

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED

IFM still needs volunteer food sorters, checkers, and distribution drivers. If you are interested, contact Victoria at IFM for more information.

UUCM WORK GROUP

The UUCM Work Group for IFM meets every second Tuesday of the month from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. at IFM. If you would like to be a part of this fun and worthwhile project, please contact Karl Snyder or Keith Johnson at: justice@uugrassvalley.org.

Community Connections

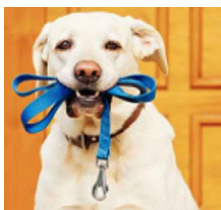
WEEKLY @ UUCM

[Subscribe to the weekly e-Chalice](#) for Zoom links and phone numbers. If you need links, please contact our Office Administrator at Admin@uugrassvalley.org.

**SUNDAY SERVICES - 9:00 AM - IN PERSON ONLY,
AND 11:00 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

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 Office Administrator, 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,
November 10 at 6:00 PM.**

We're having our annual PMS party - Pizza, Movie, Sundae night. We'll be cooking up some Papa Murphy's pizzas, watching a movie, and making ice cream sundaes. Each person should bring their favorite ice cream topping, and some cash to reimburse for the pizza and ice cream. Watch for more details through email.

For reminders and RSVPs, join the Women's Group email list by emailing a request to our Office Administrator, Siobhan Boylan, at: Admin@uugrassvalley.org.



HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanism Discussion Group will not be meeting in November or December and will reconvene on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

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,
1-3:00 PM**

AT UUCM - ALCOTT ROOM

arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org

Come and meet with other UUs on **Friday, November 14 and/or 28 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.



PICKING UP TRASH ON RIDGE ROAD

Never fear, now and again UUCM "litter-adopters" continue to spot-check our designated stretch of Ridge Road. We're pleased to report: not much litter!! But anyone can participate as an adopter whether on Ridge Road or any place you care to adopt (I have about five locations). Let me (Paul) know and I'll supply you with safety vest, litter pickers, and bags. AdoptARoad@uugrassvalley.org

Connections...



BUILDING & GROUNDS

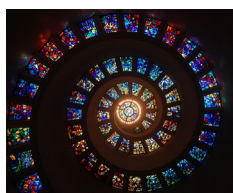
WORK PARTY

FOURTH SATURDAYS, 8:30 - 11:30 AM
AT UUCM

RSVP TO: B&G@uugrassvalley.org

Meet people while doing fun and interesting things in this monthly Building & Grounds work party to take care of UUCM's building and property. There is usually a choice of indoor and outdoor projects.

Newcomers are always welcome. In fact, this is a great way to meet new people, connect, and contribute to helping our UU community. RSVP to the email above so that the day's work projects can be planned for the number of participants.



SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE

FOURTH SATURDAYS, 2:00 - 3:30 PM,
ON-SITE AND VIA ZOOM

Questions? Need a Zoom link?

Contact: Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org

"...and there's nothing that does not act as a door, if I open it.

The shock of hearing that R.M., a beautiful young woman in one of my workshops, was stabbed fourteen times, is a doorway through which I come face to face with the unnameable.

But so is the beauty of a carrot, cut by my own hands into rounds on my kitchen counter – rings within rings, a minor universe in orange."

-Pat Schneider, *How the Light Gets In*

Opening another door: that might describe what the UUCM Spirituality Sharing Circle is about. We gather to share a bit about our personal journeys and to relax into the intimacy of silence together.

It's never the same twice. Often there is raucous laughter, sometimes there are tears. Though we generally vary widely in the language we use (or refuse) to describe the journey, always there emerges a deep sense of company on the path.

Got questions: Contact Scottie, Lindsay, or Laura – spirituality@uugrassvalley.org Or just "come on down," fourth Saturday of the month (e.g. November 22), 2:00 – 3:30 PM at UUCM.

UUCM Book Group

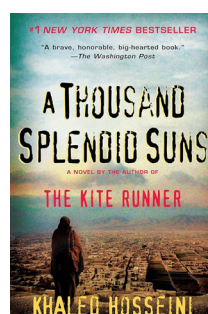
NOTE: NEW TIME AND DAY:

THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 PM

IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM

CONTACT: Books@uugrassvalley.org

Our book group reads a variety of fiction and non-fiction books. Join us for any or all of these discussions. We have changed our meeting time to the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Channing Room. *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.*



November 25, 2025:

A Thousand Splendid Suns

by Khaled Hosseini (fiction)

Facilitated by Jo Waters

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them – in their home

as well as in the streets of Kabul – they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.

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UPCOMING BOOKS:

Tuesday, December 23, 2025:

The Mighty Red: A Novel by Louise Erdrich

Facilitated by Theresa Houtman

For more details on these books, please click this link which will take you to the UUCM Book Group on our website:

[UPCOMING BOOKS](#)

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[Tuesday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

Please give at least one week's notice if you plan to attend by Zoom so we can have the equipment set up.

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Compassion and Kinetic Sand

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

This past month (October) most of us have been exploring the theme of compassion, primarily through Reverend Kevin's sermons and our Soul Matters Circles. According to some of the material we have addressed in our explorations, a key distinction between compassion and its cousins, sympathy and empathy, is that compassion goes beyond simply having thoughts about or feelings for others' pain to include maintaining a deep presence with others' pain, a presence that often includes taking specific actions to help others bear, and even alleviate, their pain. Thus, compassion is sometimes viewed as the highest form that human responses to another's suffering can take.

This idea about compassion has caused me to recollect some of the sweetest, most satisfying moments I have seen in my time upstairs with the children on Sunday mornings. Our children not only can recognize and feel another child's pain, but they also often act in ways designed to lessen the pain others are experiencing. These moments typically arise when two or more children are interested in playing with the same materials. For example, on many Sundays a child, often a younger child, sees older children quickly making their way to the space where the kinetic sand is set up in our playroom. Kinetic sand is a very popular material that is a cross between play dough and beach sand. Children young and old are drawn to it. The older ones are quick to establish themselves at the table specifically designated for the kinetic sand. Too often, the younger ones are left out because there are only so many chairs at that table. Interestingly, these difficult moments create opportunities for compassion to well up in a child. One Sunday, I watched as a three-year-old expressed his desire to join in the kinetic sand play. But all the sand and all the spaces at the sand table were already taken. That is when an older child, probably three years

older than the child who was disappointed by the situation, got up from her chair saying there was more kinetic sand in the drawer. I was certain that there was no more sand and said so. I was concerned about creating false hopes in the three-year-old. But to my surprise, the older child went to a different drawer, one that I thought did not have sand in it. She dug around in the drawer, and almost magically pulled out another half bag of kinetic sand. The face on the three-year-old lit up, as the older child got him all set up at another table. Everyone was happy with the outcome.

On another Sunday, a nearly identical situation played out, with different children. Upon entering the playroom, two older boys had quickly and eagerly co-opted all of the sand available. It was not long before a younger boy, again about three years of age, was expressing distress that there was not enough sand for him to join in on the fun. That is when one of the much older boys found a tray for the three-year-old and generously took

a third of his own sand and a third of his friend's sand to give to the child. When he was done with this redistribution of the sand, all three boys, young and old, had approximately equal amounts of sand to play with. The sand play went on peacefully for an extended period, with all three children content with their share of the sand.

Sometimes, it is too easy to think of the activities that go on in the "play" room as time filler used to bridge the gap between our short UU-inspired service in our Upstairs Sanctuary and the time when the grownups come to pick up their kids. But the fact of the matter is, the "play" room is a laboratory where children experiment with the

ideas they learn about in our stories and discussions about UU values. In that playroom, they can watch other children show compassion, they can be on the receiving end of another child's compassion, and most importantly, they can show their own compassion for other children. I wonder what the adult version of kinetic sand is downstairs. Whatever it might be, may we all have opportunities to experience compassion when our desires begin to collide with the desires of others. May we find ways to be present for the person who feels left out and to alleviate the pain experienced by those feelings of exclusion, no matter what age we are.

Please feel free to reach out to Cheryl Spaulding or Lindsay Dunckel, in person or at FamilyMinistry@uugrassvalley.org.





Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: [uugrassvalley.org](https://www.uugrassvalley.org)



MOST UPDATED VERSION OF THE UUCM CALENDAR:

<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/calendar/>



**Sunday Services are held at 9 AM onsite only
and at 11:00 AM onsite and via Zoom.**

Kids' Connection is offered at the 11:00 AM service only.

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

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

(Our Office Administrator 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

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Siobhan Boylan,
Office Administrator

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(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 and Patricia Wolfe, Editing/Proofreading