

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

October 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 15 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

SEPTEMBER THEME: Cultivating Compassion

October 5 Talking to Strangers

Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Gail Johnson Vaughan,
Worship Associate

Many of us were taught to be cautious of strangers. As we go about our day, we usually interact with family, friends, and coworkers. These relationships can help us feel cared for and connected. But what if there's a whole category of people in our lives whose impact is overlooked? What if these interactions hold a key for current times?

October 12 Ya, But...

Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Gail Johnson Vaughan,
Worship Associate

Both empathy and compassion begin as inside jobs, empathy being our feeling of what someone else is feeling, and compassion being the action we take in response to those feelings. This Sunday, we cultivate our self-compassion, powerful medicine for good within and without, and we notice some of what gets in the way.

October 19 Just Like Me

Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Leader with
Marlene Bottenfield, Worship Associate

Compassion says, "I am with you in your pain, and I will help." It may be easy to say for someone we view as similar, but less easy when someone looks different from the outside. Will that change as we learn to walk in others' shoes?

October 26 You Gotta Be Kidding!

Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Gail Johnson Vaughan,
Worship Associate

Thich Nhat Hanh stated: "To look deeply into the suffering of those who have caused us to suffer is a miraculous gift." Gift?

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

Cultivating Compassion

Honestly, cultivating compassion could be the theme for the past several years as well as several years to come! Which is to say, really, that cultivating compassion is a perennial need and so a continual underlying theme. UUCM's mission statement names greater compassion in the world as the congregations' first, and so foundational, reason for existing, after all.

But compassion is such a powerful theme and focus right now, in particular, because it is both so deeply challenged and so very challenging.

I find myself moving to anger very quickly and deeply when I take in the daily news. I have to pace myself. For an Enneagram 9 who has a life-long tendency not to recognize or acknowledge my anger, even to myself, this is telling. The stakes feel incredibly high, and I've never sworn so much in my life! (I know, can you imagine?)

My anger is out of fear, of course, and in good measure, out of compassion for those who I believe are being harmed. Do I need to, or ought I, have compassion for the people who, from my perspective, are doing the harming? And if so, good lord, how do I do that?

As we so often do with our themes, we'll approach the practice of cultivating compassion at several levels and from several angles. Over the course of October, we'll investigate and invest in self-compassion, we'll practice extending compassion to others, and we'll try to face the much more challenging spiritual invitation to cultivate our compassion for those who have caused us to suffer. Thank goodness for the powerful insights gleaned within Buddhism.

We'll begin the month, however, with an invitation to practice

and to recognize the value of talking to strangers. We'll let our practice of empathy and compassion start there.

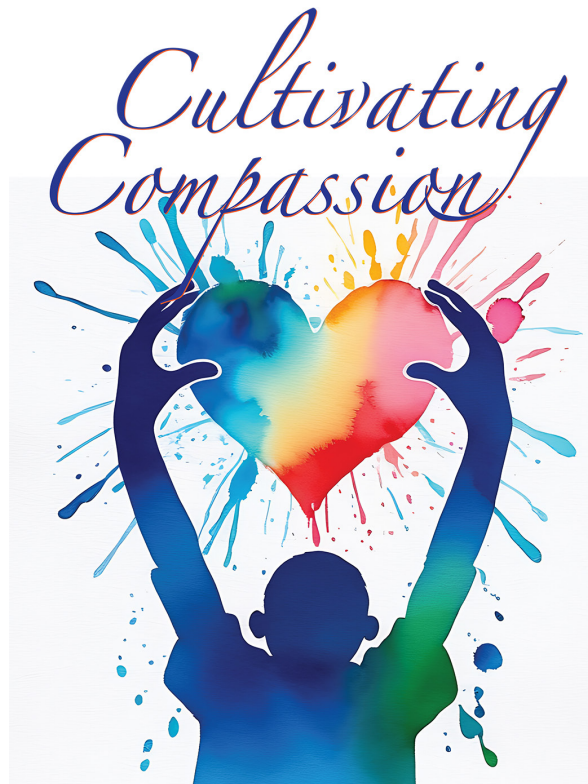
Our monthly themes are meant to take us into places where we can find the tools and resources that will help us make it through the terrains of these times, both the internal and the external terrains. Those of us who are on the liberal side of the spectrum, especially those of us who don't have marginalized

identities, were in many ways not well prepared to meet this moment, at least not at the social level or at the level of disappointed optimism and assumptions. Perhaps we were not well prepared in our hearts, either, to face the more difficult aspects of being human together. But it's also true, as my colleague noted immediately after the presidential election in November of 2016, that we UU's are in other ways "made for this!" Made for exactly this.

May we find our way through these convoluted, unfamiliar, unexpected terrains together, even if the journey calls forth a bit of unexpected cussing along the way, knowing for certain that it will call for all the compassion we can find and cultivate.

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

From the Minister

Two Sunday Morning Services at UUCM beginning in November!

By Rev. Kevin

UUCM will move to two Sunday morning services each Sunday beginning November 2. The exact times and various other details are yet to be finalized, so watch for important updates in the weeks ahead. We are approaching this move to two services as an ongoing experiment, and we will together learn and adjust as we go.

Thank you to everyone who accepted our invitations to share your thoughts, feelings, and ideas as we considered how best to meet this moment when more people are seeking a community such as UUCM than our building can hold at one time.

It may help you to know that final responsibility for worship services rests with the Minister. I solicited the aid of Board member Charlene Dugan and Worship Team member Beth Karow to help me think through the decision-making process, to gather input from the congregation, and to work with the Ministry teams most affected by any changes.

As we approach the one-year mark since the presidential election and its aftermath began bringing so many new people to UUCM's door and overflowing our sanctuary, and after receiving a rich pool of insight, ideas, and concerns, it is very clear to me that holding two Sunday morning services is our next responsible step in living out UUCM's mission to create a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just.

One of the strongest and most often-expressed concerns so far is that we take into careful account the wellbeing of our volunteers, teams, and staff as we move to two services. And so we shall. People also want to be sure that UUCM retains a sense of cohesiveness and unity even as people meet at two different times on Sundays. With both concerns in mind, I have framed the relevant question this way: "What will allow us to hold two services sustainably and well for all involved?" I call on our powerful creativity, goodwill, and the possibility of doing things differently.

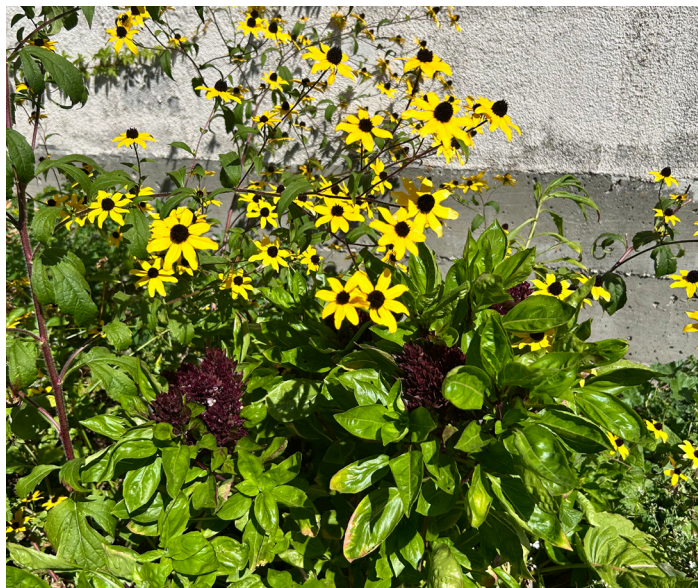
I also invite you to participate! Consider becoming a greeter, investing in the hospitality set-up or clean-up on a regular basis, or supporting Kids' Connection with your presence. (Just think, with two services you'll be able to take in the Sunday service AND support the amazing children.) These will be some of the key needs as we offer more people the chance to connect here and to cultivate UU values in themselves, in our community, and in our world.

Thank you for bringing your openness, care, energy, ideas, and goodwill to this journey.

Fall Fun!

Harvest Time in the UUCM Garden

It's been Harvest Time at the UUCM Garden. Our UU kids Corbin and Ruby have been good helpers in the garden. Thanks to all who helped nourish and harvest from our garden this year. 'Tis been a joy to watch it grow and produce such beautiful vegetables and flowers.





Board of Trustees

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

Is the Future Calling?

The vibrancy of UUCM is palpable these days. Rev. Kevin and the Worship team inspire more than 125 attendees on average each Sunday. When Rev Kevin hosted an open dialogue session after service on September 14, to discuss his decision to resume holding two services and to discuss the possibilities of a new location, more than 40 people took part with full engagement in the decision-making process. The Nominating and Stewardship Committees are meeting for the first time, planning their work for the new church year. New members are signing the membership book and joining committees, teams, and activities. The first “fun” raiser of the year (wine tasting!) was held in September. Soul Matters Circles have started gathering. Circle Suppers are being held by 12 hosts. And the Facilities Exploration Committee and Board continue to explore the deeper meaning of asking the congregation to vote on moving to a new home. With the weight of what is going on in our country and around the world, having a respite in a spiritual home can be a lifesaver. I am grateful to have thoughtful and relevant inspiration, meaningful work, comradery with people I respect and enjoy, and the opportunity to have fun in the process. Yes, UUCM is alive and thriving! It is good to be together.

In September, the Board accepted the Nominating Committee's appointment of Jim Perkins as chair. Jim attended the board meeting as field work in his new role. The committee will be recruiting lay leaders interested in joining the Board when vacancies occur or terms expire. This is year-round work as they will also have a role in helping provide leadership training resources for people who are interested in serving but wanting to build confidence first. Please be aware that board meetings are open and guests wishing to observe the process may attend.

Also on the Board's agenda was consideration of the need for a policy about how to handle a visit to the UUCM premises by ICE agents. Although we are not currently facing this challenge, the Board decided to be proactive and consider the possibility for the safety of our staff and building occupants and document some simple steps to take if this should occur. Taylor Carey as Governance chair will begin drafting this policy.

The Board also got caught up on the due diligence progress being made on the Squirrel Creek Road property and shared

thoughts and feelings about this significant decision. It is the Board's responsibility to secure the future of UUCM, and rest assured that the need for deep dialogue and discernment about this decision is of the utmost importance to each board member. Hearing your voice is important, and other congregational meetings will be held, culminating in a vote that will ultimately determine our future direction.

Having faith that what we have to offer will “create a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just” and recognizing that UUCM is uniquely positioned to serve the world at this time is where my heart is residing. And I believe our future is calling.

*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



Preview of Soul Matters Themes

As your Worship Team starts its work for this new church year, it seems especially fitting that the Soul Matters monthly themes that provide the basis for our services are action-oriented and dynamic.

There's lots going on here! Last month we explored many ways of Building Belonging, with special emphasis on our UUCM community.

Here's what's ahead:

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

Do any of these topics resonate deeply with you? Or challenge you? Or surprise you? Do any of them make you reach for pencil and paper, or art supplies, or a musical instrument? We hope so! Let us know if you have something you would like to contribute to a service or your thoughts about a particular topic.

We are looking forward to another year of exploring and growing together.

- Cheryl and Carol

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, October 6, 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.



Endowment

Kathryn Young
Endowment Committee
Endowment@uugrassvalley.org



Simple Gifts Thank You

Gwen Eymann and Gene Gilligan celebrated their birthdays with generous gifts to the Endowment Fund!

Thank you for helping to ensure a thriving UUCM long into 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.



Membership Team

Laura Harter
Chair, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

October Soul Matter's theme is Compassion. What a great reminder of how listening with kindness supports us and our congregation. Practicing kind listening is easier said than done as we move through the inevitable conflicts that arise in our community of 100+ people!

OCTOBER ALSO BRINGS CIRCLE SUPPERS!

Thank you, Theresa Houtmann, Maryann Hart, and Siobhan for organizing our annual potlucks! If you are new to UUCM, this is a great way to get to know people over a potluck meal. Sign up now [CircleSuppers](#) or in the Sanctuary through October 12.

HOSPITALITY/WELCOME DISCUSSION

If you haven't heard, we started a new discussion forum to share thoughts about our Hospitality and our Welcome at UUCM. This is for anyone who has ideas for how we might simplify, maintain, improve, and keep our refreshment hour light, easy, and breezy. The more the merrier. Email me if you want to join the conversation. I have collected a bunch of suggestions that we'll be discussing.



And finally, we welcome two new members, **Susanne and Michael Joss**! They completed the final step in the process of becoming members by signing the Membership Book. UUCM founder Anita Wald-Tuttle, Ruth Edwards, and Rev. Kevin were there to witness the event.

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



Bite into a Circle Supper!

By Theresa Houtman

Circle suppers are returning! Whether you have never been to a circle supper or you have treasured them through the years, please join us in October and early November for this rich UUCM tradition. You'll get to know one another as you share delicious food, conversation, and stories in a small group setting in a host's home.

Our hosts are excited to have you become their guests. If you are a vegetarian, we have a host for you. If you only drive during daylight, sign up for a lunch. If you can't manage steps, our hosts have provided information about how accessible their homes are. We even provide information about carpooling and driving time between the supper host and UUCM! Check with a volunteer on Sunday to learn which dinners meet your dietary needs!

You can take all of your preferences into account and select up to three choices for available dates. Loving people (not AI!) will match you with a host who will reach out to you with details.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR A CIRCLE SUPPER

There are two ways to sign up, on-line at [CircleSuppers](#) or on a clipboard in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Act fast: Signups close October 12.





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

Upcoming Presentation

Free Five Wishes Workshop

SPONSORED BY UUCM LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM
AND FOOTHILL COMPASSIONATE CARE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 12:30-2:30 PM
AT UUCM

The Lay Pastoral Care Team and Foothill Compassionate Care (Hospice of the Foothills) are holding a presentation on Sunday, October 26 from 12:30 - 2:30 PM at UUCM. Elizabeth Dreher will be presenting a free workshop to discuss the Five Wishes document and how to have the difficult conversations about how you want to be cared for when you can't speak for yourself. This workshop is open to the community, feel free to bring a friend. We will have all the documents you need to begin this important planning or to update your documents if you have done them in the past.

FIVE WISHES®

Stewarding Guidance

Save the Date for a Fabulous Evening!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Mark your calendars for an all-church get-together on Saturday, February 28, 2026. The event, themed "Imagine," will be hosted by your Stewardship 2026 Team. Facing challenging times, we will gather to share our strengths, opportunities, ideas, and food! The location is yet to be determined, but it will be a venue where all are welcomed. Stay tuned for the details.

For now, mark a big red **YES** on your calendar for the late afternoon/early evening of February 28. See you there!

YOUR STEWARDSHIP 2026 TEAM,

Charlene Dugan, Paul Elias, Ellen Goodwin, Keith Johnson, Gail Schulz and Kathryn Young



Art and Aesthetics Team

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

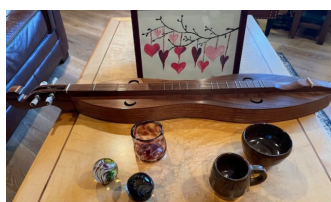
Meet the Arts and Aesthetics Team



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.

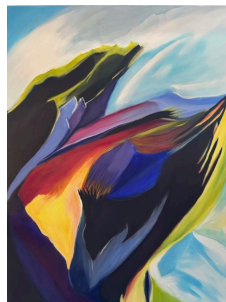


Robin Hart

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.

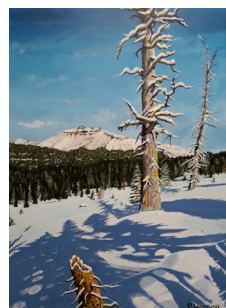
I have participated in art shows and galleries, had my space artwork on international tour, published in three books, and received awards and recognition. Over the years I have used a wide range of media. In early 2000s, I began to move most of my creative endeavors over to digital media, which has been 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

Passing the Flame from SFUU to UUCM, and Beatrix Potter: Land Saver

By Ruth Edwards and Annie Haymaker

I mentioned the Passing of the Flame from SFUU to UUCM on Oct. 22, 1995, in the August Mountain Chalice article. This celebration took place at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the SFUU church. The invitation from SFUU was as follows:

"Some (but not all) of our members have elected to leave us and join the new UU Community of the Mountains, which some of them have helped to form in the Grass Valley-Nevada City area. We do not want them to just slip away unnoticed, so we are planning an exciting service to say goodbye to each other, this Sunday October 22. Such long term SFUU members as George and Virginia Merrill, Lloyd and Leal Portis, Joan and Bill Toensing, Barry and Yvonne Strejcek and Anita Tuttle are going, as well as several new members. Let's all turn out to say goodbye. All UU Community of the Mountains members and friends are encouraged to come."

John Church, on behalf of UUCM, received a chalice identical to the SFUU chalice and the flame from the SFUU chalice.

Another important event in October occurred on Sunday October 15, 1995, when Anita Wald-Tuttle gave a talk on Beatrix Potter, entitled "Beatrix Potter, Land Saver." In addition to being an incredible author and artist, Beatrix also bought farms and donated them to the English National Trust. Her

books financed these purchases and gifts and allowed her to realize her concern for the environment, specifically land preservation.

Now, on Sunday, October 19, 2025, Anita has graciously agreed to do a command performance. Anita will play Beatrix and Shannon Dooley-Miller will interview her.

To set the stage for the Beatrix Potter interview, here is a short biography of Beatrix and her family: Beatrix Potter's family on both sides were originally from the Manchester, England area near the Lake District. They were English Unitarians. Her father, Rupert William Potter, was a barrister and her mother's father was a wealthy cotton merchant and shipbuilder. They lived in London when Beatrix was born in 1866. The family traveled to Scotland during summers. Beatrix loved animals and kept many small pets.

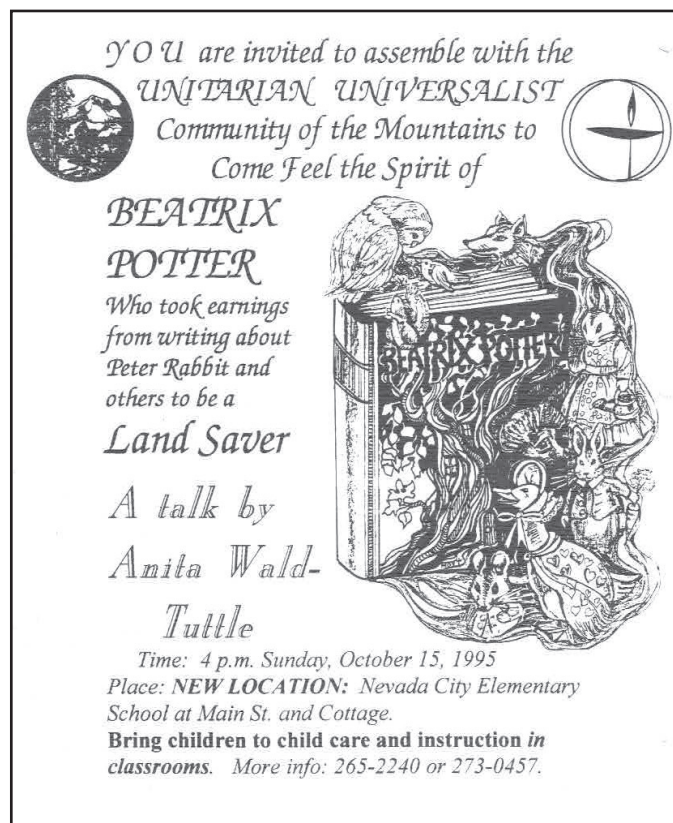
When Beatrix was 16 the family began spending summers at Wray Castle in the Lake District.

It was there that Beatrix met Hardwicke Rawnsley, vicar of Wray Church. Both were interested in the countryside and country life. Rawnsley and two others established the National Trust in 1895. The mission was and is "For everyone, for ever" – to protect and care for historic places and natural landscapes, making them accessible to the public for enjoyment, education, and inspiration. Eventually, in 1905 Beatrix bought a working farm, Hill Top, and began her active involvement with the local community. She had married William Heelis, a local solicitor. They became partners with the National Trust to buy and

preserve working farms. She donated 15 farms and 4000 acres of land to the National Trust in 1943 when she died.

Please plan on attending UUCM on October 19 to hear more about Beatrix Potter.

– Ruth



Poster from UUCM Event in October of 1995

Special Feature

Color Me Human

A Special Feature by Jenny Dewey

Tracy Pepper has been attending UUCM for several years. When she first came, she immediately realized she was the only Black person in the congregation. Were it not for Reverend Kevin Tarsa's urging, Tracy would never have returned. She describes Kevin as "a spiritually grounded person," and this realization convinced her to keep coming back.

We are fortunate she is one of the UUCM community.

Tracy's personal history reveals someone in search of her identity as a spiritual human being and as a Black person. She is the creator and founder of Color Me Human, an organization that seeks to give voice to both sides of the color divide, white and black alike.

Tracy is a gifted writer, poet, and public speaker. As an advocate for closing the gaps between races, she is devastated by the resurgence of racism in America today.

In her words: "Until there are a greater number of whites taking action, Black people will not rise...will not keep coming back."

To honor Tracy, and to know her words say it better than anyone's, I submit one of her poems. Please enjoy "Sitting This One Out."

Sitting This One Out

By Tracy Pepper

*We've carried banners.
We've marched in the heat.
We've sung freedom songs
with cracked throats
and blistered feet.*

*Black women –
we have been the spine of the struggle,
the hands that held the line,
the hearts that kept beating
when justice fell behind.*

*But this time
we're sitting it out.*

*Let the white folk step forward.
Let them shoulder the weight
of a fight they never had to name
as survival.*

*And to you white women –
step out of your whiteness
and into your soul.
It's been waiting far too long
for you to claim your right.
Only then will you be ready
for the fight.*

*Don't run from it anymore –
it's futile, it's done.
Step up woman.
The strength within
will come.*

*As for us,
compassion will not rest.
Love of humanity will not sleep.
Concern will not loosen its grip.
Caring pulls at us – always has.
Resilience hums in our bones.
Determination whispers,
"Not yet. Not done."*

*so when the time comes –
when we see you step into the fire,
not as savior,
but as kin –*

that's when you'll see us rise again.

*We'll close our books,
wring out our towels,
leave dishes in the sink.*

*Not stepping in front,
but standing beside.*

Justice News and Activities

Bending the Arc Task Force: HOME STRETCH FOR VIRGINIA POSTCARDS

By Gail Johnson-Vaughan

What a great job everyone is doing with our Get Out the Vote Postcard Campaign!

We are writing to registered Black voters in Virginia. Why? Because this year's statewide general election in Virginia is a critical opportunity to show America's resilience and commitment to change. On the ballot are ALL of their state legislators and their governor, Lt. governor, and attorney general.

The state motto, "Sic Semper Tyrannis" (Thus Always to Tyrants) suggests that Virginia is the right place to stand up in protection of democracy.

So far this year UUCM members and friends have adopted 15,574 Virginia addresses. Most of them have been written and sent. WOW! Only a few more to finish with 4 weeks left to write. There are still lots of addresses remaining for our Virginia postcard campaign. Some of you have asked for more packets - Yay!

We have until October 20 to get these postcards in the mail, so it is not too late to jump in! I'm refreshing our inventory of postcards to get us through the next 4 weeks. Please let me know if you want me to order enough for you to do one or more packets before October 20. You can email me at: gailjv@uugrassvalley.org. Thanks everyone!



Share the Plate

UUCM's August Share the Plate recipient, [Bear Yuba Land Trust](#) will receive over \$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 September partner, [Habitat for Humanity](#).



Our October *Share the Plate* recipient is [Sierra Roots](#), a community of individuals—some are chronically without homes, some feed others, some provide financial assistance, and some advocate for those in need. Volunteers are dedicated to listening and collaborating with homeless individuals to help them identify

and address their needs. Sierra Roots takes a grassroots, relationship-building approach that acknowledges the dignity of the individual and nurtures connections within the community to reduce isolation and enhance well-being.

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, Shorts and T-Shirts
- Twin-Size Fitted Sheets and Twin-Size Blankets
- 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*



Yuba River Cleanup

UUCM Collected a LOT of Trash

UUCM folks, Andy and Shannon Dooley-Miller, Rochelle Elias, Keith and Alice Johnson, and Susanne and Michael Joss joined 500 other volunteers at this year's Southern Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) Yuba River Clean-up Day on September 21 at the Wolf Creek trail site. And yes, Michael and Susanne did take a tire out of Wolf Creek! We collected 16 bags of trash along with students from the Ghidotti Early College and Nevada Union high schools. We were glad to once again be a part of this effort.



October Update

*Here is the latest news from our valued partner
Interfaith Food Ministry.*

RECYCLING PROGRAM EXPANDED WITH NEW LOCATION!

The Recycling Fundraising program started by the LWW Citizens Who Care is expanding its efforts and opening to the public. Bring your recyclables to Peace Lutheran Church (828 W. Main St, Grass Valley) on the last Saturday of every month, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (rain or shine)! They accept:

- CRV bottles & cans (aluminum, plastic, glass)
- Clean plastics #1, #2 & #5 (sorted separately)
- Paper and plastic grocery bags
- Cardboard egg cartons

All proceeds support IFM, and this is a creative new way to raise funds!

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

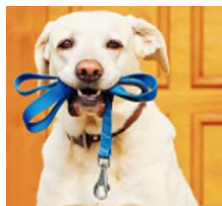
WEEKLY @ UUCM

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 - 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

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, October 13 at 6:00 PM.

We're doing a potluck, followed by a "Teachable Moments" talk where a couple people share something they have learned in life. Please respond to the reminder email in October with your food offerings.

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

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 1*, at 10:45 AM at UUCM, and our topic is the upcoming special election on November 4, 2025, to make temporary changes to California's congressional district maps in response to Texas' partisan redistricting (Proposition 50).

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.)

**The editors apologize for not having this month's Mt Chalice published in time for the Humanism Group.*



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 so that the day's work projects can be planned at the email above.

Connections...



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

Contact:
arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org

Come and meet with other UUs on **Friday, October 10 and/or 24 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.

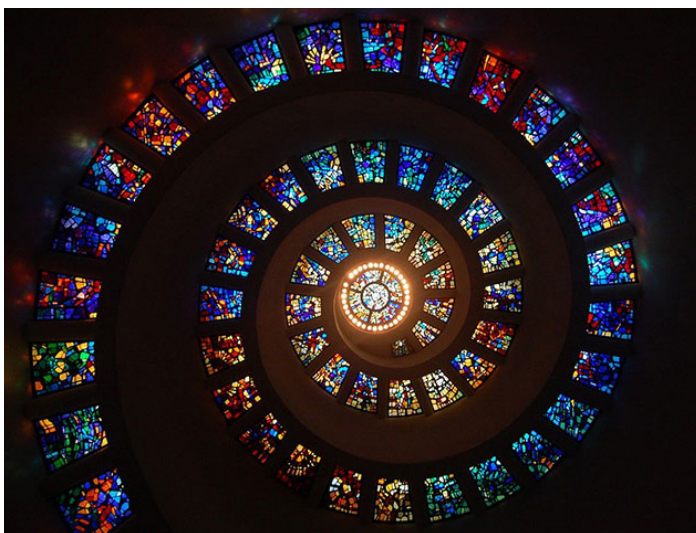
SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE
FOURTH SATURDAYS, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, ON-SITE AND VIA ZOOM

Questions? Need a Zoom link?
Contact: Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org

The Spirituality Sharing Circle offers "a space where people are encouraged to disarm themselves, lay aside their occupations and preoccupations and listen with attention and care to the voices speaking in their own center." (Thanks, Henri Nouwen)

If that sounds appealing, join us on the fourth Saturday (**October 25 this month**) from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in UUCM's Channing Room. We'll share quiet thoughts, silence, and a rich sense of community.

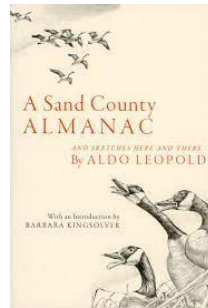
Please do let us know ahead of time if Zoom would be a better option for you; we'll "make it so!" Send an email to:
Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org



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

Our book group reads a 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.*



October 12, 2025:
A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold
Nonfiction, 240 pages
Facilitator: Jo Waters

Few books have had a greater impact than *A Sand County Almanac*, which many credit with launching a revolution in land management. Written as a series of sketches based principally upon the flora and fauna in a rural part of Wisconsin,

the book, originally published by Oxford in 1949, gathers informal pieces written by Leopold over a forty-year period as he traveled through the woodlands of Wisconsin, Iowa, Arizona, Sonora, Oregon, Manitoba, and elsewhere; a final section addresses the philosophical issues involved in wildlife conservation. Beloved for its description and evocation of the natural world, Leopold's book, which has sold well over 2 million copies, remains a foundational text in environmental science and a national treasure.

UPCOMING BOOKS:

Sunday, November 9, 2025:
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (fiction)
Facilitated by Jo Waters

Sunday, December 14, 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](#)

.....

[Sunday 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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An Invitation to Serve

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

As most of you already know, in November UUCM will begin conducting two Sunday morning services for our congregation. As I understand it, we are taking on this endeavor with an experimental spirit, eager to learn and grow from the experience and willing to make adjustments as needed. I want to use the remainder of this article to explain and explore how the Kids' Connection program upstairs will align with this change from one to two services downstairs.

While the adults will have two services from which to choose, there will still only be one Kids' Connection program on Sundays. We have not yet decided about whether it will be contemporaneous with the first or the second adult service. We will keep you posted about that decision when it has been determined. Personally, I am excited about this move to two services because I see a significant opportunity for our Kids' Connection program. Let me explain this opportunity fully and carefully. It is no secret that keeping our Kids' Connection program adequately staffed has been a challenge for several years now. I recognize (and completely understand) that UUCM members deeply value the personal connections, the intellectual stimulation, and the musical engagements they experience during the Sunday morning services. Asking people to routinely give up some of these Sunday services to spend time upstairs with the children, no matter how charming the children, is a BIG ask. That being said, we really need several more people who would be willing to commit at least one Sunday a month to being upstairs with the children.



We do not need current or former teachers, although teachers would be welcome as volunteers. We simply need adults who enjoy being around children and who want to be of genuine service to this community. And the benefit is the chance to connect with our amazing children and the adults who are already serving in Family Ministry's Kids' Connection program.

Now, how is this ongoing staffing challenge related to our movement from one to two Sunday services in November? Well, with two services, interested UUCMers will be able to attend a service every single Sunday, AND commit to giving one day a month to the Kids' Connection program. For people who want to serve our community in a meaningful and satisfying way, becoming a regular (once a month) volunteer in Kids' Connection would be a way to do that, all on a day they would be at UUCM anyway for one of the two services that we will begin offering in November. I do want to end this reflection with a reality check: not every UUCMer would be a good fit with our needs upstairs. So, if you do show an interest in taking part in our program, we will want to talk with you, and maybe have you try a day or two upstairs to see how it

feels for you. While you need no special training to be a Kids' Connection volunteer, your own personal needs or qualities might lead you to feel more or less comfortable with our small chairs, loud noises, sticky fingers, and occasionally "grumpy" children. We can explore those issues more fully once you have expressed interest in learning more about our program and the opportunities to serve that it provides.

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



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,
Office Administrator

Toby Thomas-Rose, *Music Director*

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Minister@uugrassvalley.org

Admin@uugrassvalley.org

Music@uugrassvalley.org

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(530) 274-1675

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

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

[Article Submission Form](#)

VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS:

Kathryn Young, Design/Layout; Lesley Champlin and Patricia Wolfe, Editing/Proofreading