

# the Mountain Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains



January 2026

## 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 ...

### JANUARY THEME: PRACTICING RESISTANCE

#### January 4 Your Next Epiphany

Rev. Kevin Tarsa with your assistance

For the past several years Rev. Kevin has invited people to choose a word for the year. Some of us travel with the word all year, engaging it in active conversation with our lives. Others of us forget our word within a few weeks. This year, in the swirl of "resolutions" energy, we'll be invited to enter the next 12 months with a question for the year, a question that meets your life where it is and asks for an ongoing conversation.

#### January 11 Vive la Résistance: ? or !

Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Carol Nimick,  
Worship Associate

The whole idea of "resistance" pushes people's buttons. Sometimes our response comes from a discomfort with or rejection of the idea of resistance, and sometimes the button that's pushed is a "Hell yes, let's go!" button. Together, we'll dive into the complexities of "resistance," framing resistance not as rebellion for its own sake, but as an expression of faithfulness to our shared values.

#### January 18 Turn the Volume Up: The Ends of Resistance

Rev. Kevin with Marlene Bottenfield,  
Worship Associate

Resistance in social-political spheres is often rooted in trying to keep things as they are or getting things back to where they were, a kind of "restorative resistance" that ultimately bolsters

the status quo. This Dr. Martin Luther King weekend, we'll ask ourselves and our religious tradition what it might mean to dream of building new worlds, rather than merely reforming the old.

#### January 25 Sitting in Limbo

Beth Karow and Randy McKean,  
Worship Associates

"Sitting here in limbo, But I know it won't be long..." These words of Jimmy Cliff's may be resonating with many of us as we navigate the liminal spaces in which we find ourselves—temporal, physical, and societal, between the old and new year, between UUCM's current and future home, and the shifting cultural and political landscape. Come explore the Cosmic Waiting Room with Beth and Randy as we prepare ourselves for whatever transitions await us.

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## From the Minister

Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

### On a New Campus

To begin this new year, a moment to lift up tremendous gratitude for all who have invested such generous, skillful, intentional, and thoughtful energies in the process and the decision of UUCM members to purchase a new campus. In this, I am including all who have voiced deep concerns and asked care-filled questions, and those who, in the end, voted "no." The clear and transparent process itself, the visioning forward, and the ways people have navigated differences of perspective with honesty and kindness have all deepened the spirit and the capacities of this congregation. As I've mentioned in other places, the journey itself has been liberating energy!

Carol Richey's wise, open, and skillful leadership and communication have been key, as has been Gail Schultz's seemingly tireless forward-leaning energy (though only seemingly tireless, I am sure) and her attention to myriad logistics. The amazing members and ongoing efforts of the Facilities Exploration Committee have been an extraordinary gift to this community and its future.

Of course, much work, as well as much imagining of possibilities lies ahead. I, for one, very much look forward to this unfolding path for UUCM and what it can and will mean for UUCM - what it will mean internally, as well as for UUCM's presence in the wider community in a time which needs as much courageous love as we can learn to live.

### Practicing Resistance

The January theme of Practicing Resistance will itself spark some resistance, I expect, meaning that it could be a juicy theme. I have long lived from the notion that "What we resist persists." What, then, is the wise application of resistance in our lives?

We'll begin this first month of the year by starting close in, as we so often do. We will turn the theme's implication outside-in and reflect on our personal internal resistance, the energies in us that hinder our movement toward what we think and say we want. In the following two services, we'll face outward, asking what resistance we may be called to live in the midst of the current grabs for the consolidations of power, control, and wealth in the nation and world, and the demonizing and fear-mongering that have been conscripted to aid them. We end the month attending to the many layers of transition in our lives as Randy and Beth invite us to consider the various limbos in which we find ourselves.

Hang on to your hat! (Or "Hang on to your babushka!" as I learned to say.)

Here we go!

*With Care,*

*- Rev. Kevin*

### MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS



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

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



# Board of Trustees

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

January is the perfect month to represent where we stand in UUCM's history. In ancient Roman history, Janus is the god of beginnings and transitions. As we prepare to celebrate 30 years of history, most of them in the South Church Street building, we also look ahead to the significant transition of moving to the new Squirrel Creek Road location (see press release below announcing UUCM's acquisition of this church campus).

As we look back, we can see the youth going through Kids' Connection who are now adults; the weddings, births, memorial services, and the gradual improvements to the building; so many services, now also streamed on Zoom and archived on YouTube; and our beloved community and holiday celebrations. We've experienced lay-led services and a few ministers, finding the perfect long-term match in Rev. Kevin. We have known members active through all or much of the 30 histories. We have welcomed many new members and said goodbye to those who have moved away or moved on.

Our rich history has delivered us to this moment of readiness on a new threshold. What will the future bring in a larger sanctuary, with room for larger events and concerts, commercial cooking and large gatherings for meals, outdoor celebrations, extra space to share with like-minded community partners? Imagine! It's not a leap to see UUCM with 200 members and friends, hosting public events, with parking for all!

*"Can you feel it – the humming in this story that calls to each of us now?  
Are you listening to the ancient rhythms resounding in the between,  
old instructions for new arrangements*

*beckoning us to ask: who are we becoming?*

*In the chaos of great change, what imaginal possibilities are waiting  
to awaken –*

*in you,*

*in me,*

*in us,*

*in the world?*

*Are you willing  
to let go of what you now know–  
to become something new?"*

– Karen Hering,  
Trusting Change

Happy 2026!

*In service,*

*– Carol*

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***UUCM Acquires Squirrel Creek Property to Support Growing Congregation***

Grass Valley, CA – The Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains (UUCM), a liberal faith tradition, has purchased the property at 12582 Squirrel Creek Rd., marking a new chapter after 25 years at its South Church Street location. Recent growth has created a need for more space for services and community events.

The purchase, finalized after a December 7th congregational vote, involved close collaboration with Bethel Church and overcoming insurance and legal hurdles. The transaction was completed on schedule thanks to swift action by all parties.

New Covenant Baptist Church will remain as tenant until March 20, 2026 while UUCM prepares for transition, including selling the 246 South Church Street building and planning a capital campaign.

UUCM has been led by Reverend Kevin Tarsa since 2016. "As more and more people with progressive values look for meaningful connection, the new campus will allow UUCM to live its values more fully, serving the wider community as well as those who are seeking a liberal religious home. The thought of a larger facility has already been liberating energy and ideas and I look forward to discovering what this property will make possible."

They were represented by Jon Blinder and Tyson Tucker, Managing Directors, Coldwell Banker Commercial G.R. For more information, contact UUCM at [admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:admin@uugrassvalley.org) or (530) 274-1675.

## UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### **JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026**

Carol Richey

*President*

Jeff Gold

*Vice President*

Gail Schulz

*Treasurer*

Lin Jovanovic

*Secretary*

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

Charlene Dugan, Gwen Eymann, and Mark Grove

*Board meetings are open to all members and friends starting at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month.*

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



## Words from the Worship Team

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



Happy New Year! It's going to be a year of changes, adjustments, and new ways of doing things. We don't know when we will move to our new campus, but just the anticipation of doing so is bringing new energy and new ideas to UUCM. And we welcome yours!

As for the Worship Team, we're still fine-tuning the nuts and bolts of having two services on Sunday mornings. We appreciate the spacious feeling in the sanctuary, and the opportunity to include more people as readers. We hope to develop new ways of including congregants in service planning as well. And we look forward to having the whole congregation together again in a space that holds all of us comfortably. With parking!

Meanwhile, we love to hear what you think: what works well; what would you like to see more of, or less of; what ideas do you have for topics or speakers? Do you have a poem or reflection or piece of music or art you'd like to share? Feel free to approach any of us, or Rev Kevin, anytime.

*We're all in this together!*

*- Cheryl & Carol*



### Upcoming Soul Matters Themes

January:	Practicing Resistance
February:	Embodying Resilience
March:	Paying Attention
April:	Embracing Possibility
May:	Awakening Curiosity
June:	Flourishing Together

## Stewarding Guidance

### Stewardship Team Moving Forward!

As we move forward with the purchase of the Squirrel Creek campus, the Stewardship Team is planning a dual campaign focused on both annual pledges and longer-term capital pledges. **Mark your calendars for a no-charge, catered dinner on February 28 that will kick off these efforts.** The dinner will not involve pledge cards. Rather, it's a chance for us to share our ideas, hopes, and memories. The theme, "Imagine," is especially meaningful as we undertake this new adventure. Thank you for supporting our work and this wonderful community!

#### YOUR STEWARDSHIP 2026 TEAM:

Shannon Dooley-Miller, Charlene Dugan, Paul Elias, Ellen Goodwin, Keith Johnson, Gail Schulz and Kathryn Young



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

## Monthly Evening Service



*Join us for an Evening  
Contemplative Service*

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

This month's service: **Monday, January 5, 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.



## Membership

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

I hope December's holidays brought you opportunities for meaningful connection and reflection. I hope you felt UUCM was there for you whether the holidays brought comfort and joy, rest and retreat, blue emotions, or a challenging mix of all the above. The advent of a new year and the arc of the Winter Solstice always cause me to pause. No resolutions to set but a time to look back, forward, and offer good wishes for the New Year.

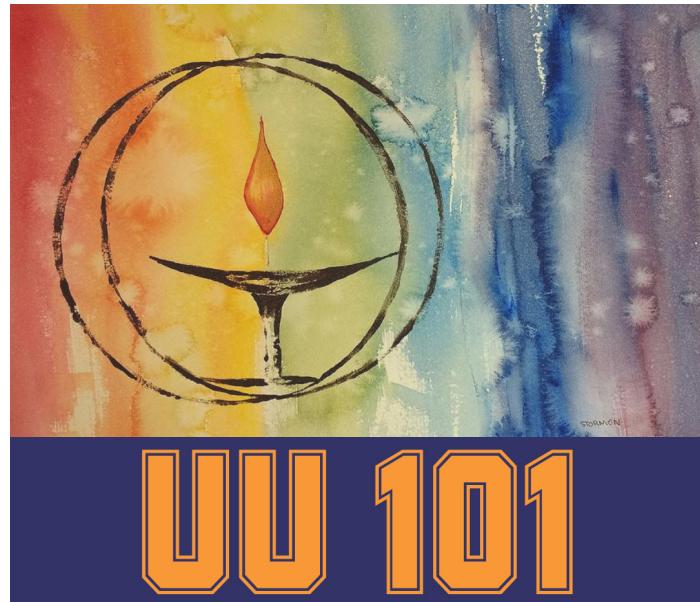
The Membership Team wishes you good times and health in 2026 and encourages us all to practice healthy boundaries. I hope you will find right-sized challenges and room for growth as you engage with UUCM. It's a balance - the ability to give and receive, i.e., offering and asking for help.

Here's to 2026, a year for choosing and practicing the "joyful yes and the healthy no" and the simple 'could you help me with this?'

Cheers!

Laura

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



A small interactive group session to find out more about UU and UUCM. First Sunday of each month after the second service... for more info, email: [UU101@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:UU101@uugrassvalley.org)



## Parish Care

*Gwen Eymann*  
Coordinator, UUCM Parish Care  
[Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org)

# Honoring Member Joel Houtman

## Celebration of Life on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Joel Houtman liked to say he was born a child in South Dakota, despite lack of photographic evidence. He was born to second generation Dutch-Friesian parents and the fifth of six children. His favorite memories from childhood included fostering an orphaned raccoon and shooting gophers (ineptly) with his dog Zip.

Despite being told by a high school counselor to forget about college because he was a mediocre student, Joel graduated from South Dakota State University with a physics degree. He began working on his master's in physics at University of Colorado at Boulder. While in college, Joel found his voice and life long passion for social justice.

His induction into the army during the Vietnam War ended his graduate education, but not his anti-war activism. His proudest memory from his army service was joining GI's United and legally circulating a successful anti-Vietnam petition at Fort Huachuca. They successfully obtained 3000 signatures out of 8000 personnel stationed on the base.

After his army days, Joel joined a fledgling truss company owned by the Hanson brothers as a draftsman. Deciding engineering was physics for slow learners, Joel studied briefly, then aced the civil engineering test, and was soon leading the engineering department at Hanson Truss. He spent the next several years designing the truss software that helped Hanson Truss to become a successful company. He continued to work for Hanson Truss for three decades.

During this time Joel met his future wife Theresa. Joel gained three adult children and became the grandfather to eight. Joel was lovingly involved and supportive of his family his entire life. Being a grandfather was one of his greatest joys.

Joel and Theresa also traveled extensively and visited over thirty countries. Their adventures included hiking the Camino de Santiago in Spain, sailing down the Mekong



River from Cambodia to Vietnam, and visiting Cuba, which was one of his life-long dreams.

Joel discovered woodworking and created exquisite furniture pieces that he generously shared with friends and family. In the late 90s, Joel and Theresa designed and built a home on the central coast that included his cabinetry and reclaimed maple floors. The home was gradually filled with the

beautiful furniture he built. He especially enjoyed building a tree house, cribs, desks, and a sewing center for his step-children and grandkids.

In 2005, Joel and Theresa moved to Grass Valley. They embraced the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains as their spiritual family. Joel loved his men's and humanism groups. He served as Treasurer and on many committees, including social justice, and of course he built furniture and a wooden logo for the church.

During his four year journey with Parkinson's, Joel's community surrounded him and Theresa with love and support. They never had to worry about how to get to doctor's visits or if Joel would have someone to visit with.

Joel left this world on his birthday, as he predicted he would, with the dignity and wit he demonstrated throughout his life. Joel was surrounded by his friends, wife, and beloved dog as he transitioned from this life. His passion for social justice and his love for the wonders of science were with him until the very end. Joel's intelligence, kindness, and sense of humor will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

**HIS LIFE WILL BE CELEBRATED AT HIS BELOVED**  
Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountain,  
246 Church Street, Grass Valley, CA  
Saturday, January 24 at 2:00 PM.

*Donations in his honor can be made to UUCM.*



## Art and Aesthetics Team

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

### Mother-Daughter Exhibit Continues

The Art and Aesthetics Team first ever mother-daughter exhibit continues. Enjoy the artwork of Jenny Dewey and Tamar Shaddeau. You may already know Jenny and Tamar from the classes they have so generously taught here at UUCM. Jenny's ongoing writers' class has frequently been mentioned by new members as their first way of getting involved with UUCM and our congregation.

Tamar generously volunteered her time to teach a design class over a period of many months. Both are talented artists and are sharing their work in the current exhibit.

Jenny and Tamar each contributed a short description of their art processes and outlooks. We hope you enjoy the show!

#### **Jenny Dewey**

"A long career writing and illustrating books for children has given me deep satisfaction. The artwork I am exhibiting here is not from my books. I've assembled a group of pictures showing progression from my early work to the present day. The dates from past to present will be posted underneath each picture. Also, the medium will be described.

At present, I experiment with creating new images fresh from my imagination. Most are a reflection of no longer being obliged to abide by rules associated with illustrating books. I have the freedom to figure out what the pictures mean - which includes being aware they simply are, without any meaning attached."

#### **Tamar Shaddeau**

"The word I use to describe my work is multimedia. I am at my best when free to use whatever materials are at hand. These are often 'found objects.' I love knowing I have no rules to follow, other than my own.

When I see river rocks, I may want to take one home and turn it into an image. The same goes for having an idea requiring metal, wood, paper or clay.

I'm trained as a graphic designer. My study of graphic design informs the art I do today. However, I feel free to depart from strict rules associated with graphic design."



# Special Feature

## Marking Time

### A Special Feature by Jenny Dewey

Zozobra, or Old Man Gloom, is a 75-foot marionette, made of shredded paper, set on fire one night a year to celebrate renewal and bright hopes for the future. The burning of Zozobra is tradition in Santa Fe New Mexico, where I grew up. I was ten when I was tall enough to participate in Zozobra celebrations as a "Gloomlet." Gloomlets wore white sheets with eyeholes and danced around Zozobra's feet before he was burned.

The wrangler on our ranch had a warning for me: "Don't get yourself set on fire."

Burning Old Man Gloom is one of a multitude of traditions around the world held annually to celebrate rebirth. Traditions range from the bizarre to deeply spiritual.

Five thousand years ago, hunter-gatherer societies linked hope for renewal to cycles of life, to sunrise and sunset, and the position of stars in the sky.

Four thousand years ago, in Babylon, an eleven-day festival called Akitu was held to celebrate the Spring Equinox, the return of light over darkness.

The name January comes from a Roman god named Janus, a two-faced deity. Janus looked forward to the return of light, and he looked back on darkness. He represented the transition from winter to spring.

What is entertaining, if not educational, is the way cultures around the world enjoy particular ways to "Ring out the old and ring in the new."

In Romania people drive out evil spirits and welcome good ones by dressing up as bears and dancing to drums and flutes. In Denmark people smash dishes. The house with the biggest heap of broken crockery is considered the luckiest.

In Brazil people "jump waves" to bring on better times. In Spain people eat twelve grapes, one each for the last twelve minutes before the new year begins. Oysters and champagne are consumed in France (what else for the French!). In Columbia people run around with empty suitcases hoping to fill them with good luck. People go ice-fishing in Canada. Many Latin American countries believe wearing colorful underwear brings good times. The Irish go up and down streets banging on pots.



A tiny Micronesian island in the Pacific Ocean known as Christmas Island (Kiritmati) is the first inhabited location where the new year officially begins – one full day before Times Square in New York City is jammed with people waiting for the ball to drop.

Lambing season begins in early January on the Navajo Reservation; lambing ewes bleat and sheep dogs circle protectively. Lambs drop on cold ground softened with fresh hay. The people watch. Children's eyes are wide in amazement.

Rebirth. This is how our time is marked, ripe with opportunities for better things to come.

## UUCM Choir Update

♪♪♪ Come Sing in the UUCM Choir January 20 to February 15! ♪♪♪

Rev. Kevin is pleased to announce that Ingrid Holman, director of the New Peace Choir of Nevada County, will direct a UUCM choir 6:30-8:00 PM on Tuesdays from January 20 through February 10, and the choir will sing a pair of pieces in the services on Sunday, February 15. (*Note the change of rehearsal day to Tuesdays for this cycle.*)

Passionate about creating music together, Ingrid was born in Bavaria, and earned her Bachelor's degree in Music- and Movement Education at the University of Salzburg "Mozarteum" in Austria, in a program founded there by Carl Orff. Ingrid also completed a Choir Director Program in Augsburg, Germany, sang in many German choirs, and, as a music educator taught in a vocational school for Kindergarten teachers in Nuernberg, Germany.

Locally, Ingrid has taught Music Education at Nevada City Elementary, School of the Arts, and Yuba River Charter School. She has sung in the Music in the Mountains Choir for many years and has been teaching yoga for over 20 years.

### SCHEDULED CHOIR REHEARSALS WITH INGRID HOLMAN:

Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM  
January 20, January 27, February 3, and February 10

Performance on Sunday, February 15  
at both Services

All singers are welcome!  
For more information, contact [music@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:music@uugrassvalley.org).

## Community Opportunity

Join The Village Project for a  
**World Café**  
**January 6, 2026 1:30-3:30pm**  
**Madelyn Helling Library Community Room**



**A World Café** is a relaxed, small-group conversation where people come together to talk about issues that matter to them. You'll have a chance to share your thoughts, listen to others, and learn from different viewpoints. The focus is on working together, exchanging ideas, and exploring ways to strengthen connections in our community and inspire heartful action.

**The Village Project** works to build a caring and welcoming community where people support one another, respect differences, and take positive local action. By connecting with each other and building trust, we believe our community can grow stronger. Everyone is welcome, and your voice is important.

RSVP via email to: [peopleassets@gmail.com](mailto:peopleassets@gmail.com)  
or call 415-866-0421

To learn more and stay in touch visit  
[www.TheVillageProject.us](http://www.TheVillageProject.us)



# Justice News and Activities

## Bending the Arc Task Force: YOUR POSTCARDS MADE A DIFFERENCE!

By Gail Johnson-Vaughan

Once again UUCMers lived our values by confronting voter suppression through our 2025 Reclaim Our Vote postcard campaign. Our postcards to get out the vote for the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and the Virginia primary and general elections totaled 15,547, and boy! The results showed our efforts matter. Good job!!

2026 is a critical midterm election year, and our partners at Center for Common Ground are already planning voter contact campaigns in Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, and Texas, plus Wisconsin Supreme Court elections. Mark Your Calendar

CFCG expects to start the 2026 campaign with this year's Wisconsin Supreme Court elections (April 7, 2026). Once again, it is a critically important event. We are likely to get addresses and scripts in February. I'll keep you posted as we know more.

They also let us know Virginia may hold a special election in April to draw new congressional maps (similar to California's recent redistricting election). If this happens, we'll be mobilizing voters for a statewide ballot initiative.



## Intercultural Development

### Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) at UUCM

By Tracy Pepper

- GROWING OUR CULTURAL AWARENESS
- DEEPENING OUR COMMUNITY
- LIVING OUR UU VALUES

The Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) is a research-based assessment that supports individuals and congregations in understanding how we engage cultural differences and how we can grow toward greater inclusion, equity, and belonging.

#### WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INCLUDE?

- At-home online assessment (approximately 20–25 minutes)
- Confidential results, shared only between the participant and the Qualified Administrator
- One-on-one post-assessment debrief with individualized guidance
- Personalized intercultural development plan
- Optional monthly IDI discussion groups to support ongoing learning and practice

#### WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Deepen your personal intercultural awareness and skills
- Strengthen UUCM's commitment to equity, justice, and belonging
- Build more inclusive and resilient relationships
- Enhance leadership and community engagement within the congregation

#### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT DATES:

January–March (additional dates to be determined)

Participation is open to UUCM members, board members, committees, and ministry teams. A sliding-scale fee is available.

#### LEARN MORE OR SIGN UP:

Contact Tracy Pepper, IDI Qualified Administrator, by emailing: [tracypepper@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:tracypepper@uugrassvalley.org).

Together, we can continue building a more compassionate, culturally aware, and inclusive UUCM.

# Justice News and Activities

## Share the Plate

UUCM's October *Share the Plate* partner, [Bright Futures for Youth](#) received \$1,400, thanks to generous UUCM members, friends, and visitors. These weekly donations add up. Thank you all!

As of this writing, we are finishing up collections for our December partner, [Hospitality House](#).



Our January Share the Plate partner is [Community Beyond Violence](#) ([www.cbv.org](http://www.cbv.org)). Community Beyond Violence helps heal the trauma of sexual assault and domestic violence by providing crisis intervention, safety, advocacy, and education to survivors and to our community.

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

## Share the Plate Partners for 2025-26

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

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



## Hospitality House Donations

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

### Currently, Needed Items Are:

- Men's Casual Pants, Long-Sleeved T-Shirts
- Men's Jackets and Sweatshirts
- Disposable Hand Warmers
- Men's and Women's Underwear/Bras
- Men's and Women's Shoes
- 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*



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

We meet on **Tuesdays** at the Wolf Creek Trail/Northstar Mining Museum parking area, and on **Thursdays** at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley. Be sure to ask our Office Administrator, Siobhan ([Admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Admin@uugrassvalley.org)) to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can hear about last minute changes.

### MEN'S GROUP

**WEDNESDAYS FROM 8:30 - 10:30 AM AT UUCM**

Men gather to enjoy each other's company.

Contact for the group: [Men@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Men@uugrassvalley.org)

### SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

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

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



**WOMEN'S GROUP**  
**MONTHLY POTLUCK –**  
**SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM**  
**AT UUCM**

**Our next meeting is Monday, January 12 at 6:00 PM.**

To kick off 2026, we'll have a potluck dinner AND a planning meeting for the rest of the activities for 2026. Bring your ideas for future meetings! What were your favorites from the past few years? Do you have a connection to a person who could present an interesting program?

Join the Women's Group email list by emailing a request to our Office Administrator at: [Admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Admin@uugrassvalley.org).



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

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



### HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

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

**Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 7, at 10:45 AM at UUCM**, and our topic is an article titled "A Humanist's Response to a Dangerous Mindset" addressing what seems like the current administration's rejection of Humanist Values and what we might do to respond. In addition, we will look at the process of UUCM becoming a Freethinker Friendly Congregation.

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

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

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

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



**ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE**  
**SECOND & FOURTH FRIDAYS, 1-3:00 PM**  
**AT UUCM - ALCOTT ROOM**  
[arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org)

Come and meet with other UUs on **Friday, January 9 and 23 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.



**BUILDING & GROUNDS WORK PARTY**  
**FOURTH SATURDAYS, 8:30 - 11:30 AM**  
**AT UUCM**  
**RSVP to: [B&G@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:B&G@uugrassvalley.org)**

Meet people while doing fun and interesting things. Newcomers are always welcome.

## Looking Forward in 2026 – The OWL Program

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

As we begin a new calendar year, we all look forward to new endeavors, new adventures, new projects. Family Ministry is no exception to this forward-looking spirit. This year we are looking forward to bringing the OWL program to our youth. "What is the OWL program?" I imagine some of you are asking that question.

Well, the acronym OWL stands for Our Whole Lives. It is an educational program "that fosters informed, responsible, and values-based decisions about sexual health and behavior." The OWL curriculum is a collaborative publication from the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. While the entirety of the OWL program is designed to address issues across the life span, ranging from very young children to senior citizens, the specific course that we will start up at UUCM in January 2026 will focus on middle school youth (grades 7-9). This effort to serve the youth associated with UUCM will also serve as a collaboration between UUCM and SFUU (Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists). Lindsay Dunckel, who participated in a training designed to prepare facilitators for OWL courses, will work with a representative from the Auburn Family Ministry team. Our youth will have the opportunity to connect with the SFUU youth as they explore issues related to human sexuality that are appropriate for this middle school cohort. The participants in this OWL program will meet weekly over the course of the winter and spring months. If you have questions about the program, especially if you have a young person from one of the middle school grades who might want to participate in this program, please contact Lindsay Dunckel at [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org).

Finally, the Family Ministry Team wishes you a Happy New Year. We all have much to look forward to in 2026.

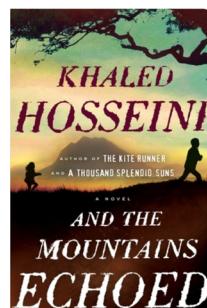
If you have questions about this Family Ministry offering, please contact Lindsay at  
[FamilyMinistry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:FamilyMinistry@uugrassvalley.org).

## UUCM Book Group

THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 PM  
IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM  
CONTACT: [Books@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Books@uugrassvalley.org)

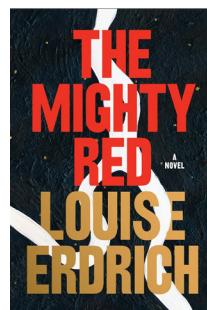
Our book group reads a variety of fiction and non-fiction books. Join us for any or all of these discussions. We have changed our meeting time to the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Channing Room. *We also offer the option of joining by Zoom, but please give at least one week's notice so we make sure to have equipment ready to welcome you.*

Our next meetings are as follows:



January 27, 2025:  
*And The Mountains Echoed*  
by Khaled Hosseini  
2012, 404 pages  
Facilitated by Jo Waters

A story about the intergenerational repercussions of the decision by a poor Afghani farmer to sell his daughter to a wealthy family in Kabul in 1952.



February 24, 2025:  
*The Mighty Red*  
by Louise Erdrich  
2024, 384 pages  
Facilitated by Theresa Houtman

A love triangle and a wedding gone awry is the focus of a small farming community in the Red River Valley of North Dakota as the wider community faces environmental and financial changes after the 2008 financial crisis. Erdrich is a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winning author.

For more details on these books, please click this link which will take you to the UUCM Book Group on our website:  
[UPCOMING BOOKS](#)

### 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.



## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

246 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: [uugrassvalley.org](http://uugrassvalley.org)

**MOST UPDATED VERSION OF THE UUCM CALENDAR:**  
<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/calendar/>

**Sunday Services are held at 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](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

### UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Siobhan Boylan,  
*Office Administrator*

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

### TELEPHONE

(530) 274-1661

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

(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*