

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

March 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 11 for Kid-Centered Activities ...

MARCH THEME: PAYING ATTENTION

March 1 **Abundance! Imagine.**

Rev. Kevin, Worship Associate Carol Nimick, & all!

This Sunday, beginning our month-long invitation to “pay attention,” we celebrate the nature and power of community and the rising, nay surging, and converging waves of energy and possibility being generated these days.

March 8 **Paying Attention Within: Mindfulness, Meditation, and Meeting the Moment**

Worship Associate Beth Karow, with Tracy Pepper and Gracie Kendrick

Once again, we approach our theme by starting close in, by paying attention first to the worlds inside of us, with the heart, wisdom, and skill of Tracy and Gracie to invite us inward and to guide us.

March 15 **Moral Outrage: An Unexpected Bridge**

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with Worship Associate Randy McKean

Kurt Gray claims, in his book *Outraged*, that across the socio-political spectrum we share the same moral foundation – an ancient psychological need to protect the vulnerable from harm. It's just that we have differing perceptions as to who is being harmed! Let's examine our own moral outrage and surface our compassion at the same time, even as we learn to set fiercely compassionate boundaries to prevent the harm that we perceive.

March 22 **Everything that Shimmers IS Gold**

Worship Assoc. Beth Karow and Randy McKean

In these days of ever-present distractions, from shiny social media posts to doom-laden news streams, it is even more important that we devote attention to and nurture those subdued yet vital sparks that can sustain us. For this Tapestry Service, members of our Soul Matters groups will share their reflections on exploring both inner and outer worlds.

March 29 **Of a Place**

Rev. Kevin, Worship Team, with the UUCM Choir

Transition is the internal psychological and emotional process people undergo to come to terms with a new situation, whereas change is the external event that's calling for that internal journey. In this service, one of a set of transition services over the next few months, we'll draw on wisdom regarding transitioning to remember, appreciate, and celebrate 246 Church Street. In the process, we'll take time to grieve the losses that come with moving to a new home, no matter how exciting such a move may be.

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

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

In the middle of the recent snows, I shared this photo with my family and captioned it thusly: "My apple tree blossoms are rethinking their decision."



I name this in the spirit of this month's theme, Paying Attention, which is a perennial theme if ever there was one. Awareness, presence, noticing, mindfulness, being with what is, in the moment – by any name it is the vital starting place for so many paths of spiritual and emotional growth. Yet, even when we are paying attention and acting on that attention (think "months of warm weather, seems like a good time to blossom"), realities will keep taking turns we didn't expect or that seemed unlikely, and we'll need to pay new attention.

In the language of the resisters in Minnesota, the invitation of these times is to be ready at any and every moment to pivot to meet what is arising right then, or as a friend of mine reframed it, to pirouette! (I love the freedom and joy embodied in that dance re-framing.) At the gatherings in which I participated in Minneapolis in January, plans were changing by the minute sometimes, based on what was happening in that extra-volatile period. It was a powerful and liberating invitation to relax our grip on our expectations, assumptions, and need to know everything in advance, and to remain responsive to what we were experiencing and learning.

Our Paying Attention theme accompanies the spring equinox and thus the time of year when the daylength has increased enough to start making a difference in our psyches and our bodies. Life within and without begins to stir in new ways, and so it's a perfect time to cultivate our ability to pay attention. It's a rhythm that aligns with a stirring at the level of the nation as well, responses being sung in many communities, including this one.

As you know, we'll have plenty to pay attention to at UUCM this month and beyond as members and friends engage both in the external work of preparing to move to a new campus and the internal work of transition, the process of coming to terms with such a meaningful and significant change. In these, we will have endless opportunities to pivot/pirouette with each other, to revise expectations, tacks, plans, certainties – to take a deep breath and to turn one more time. It will be a great spiritual practice and preparation for other areas of our lives.

Thank Goodness or thank Godness, as your theology sees it, that we have a few more options than the apple blossoms that (understandably) got a headstart on spring.

With care,

– Rev. Kevin



Words from the Worship Team

Cheryl Morris and Carol Nimick
Worship Team Co-Leaders
Worship@uugrassvalley.org



March already! Preparation toward moving to our new church home is happening on many fronts. What remarkable demonstrations of leadership, teamwork, creativity, talent, and thoughtfulness are occurring every day, and many evenings as well. Not surprising for UUCM, but still remarkable.

For the Worship Team, our monthly meetings now are largely devoted to sharing thoughts about what is most needed spiritually and emotionally for our community at this time, when there are many moving pieces, some conflicted feelings, and for those working so hard, certainly fatigue that trades places with exhilaration on a regular basis. How can we best say good-bye to the Church Street building, what rituals can we develop to ease the way, and then how best to embrace our new home?

We love hearing your ideas and suggestions about how to embody everything that this move entails.

- Cheryl & Carol



Upcoming Soul Matters Themes

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| March: | Paying Attention |
| April: | Embracing Possibility |
| May: | Awakening Curiosity |
| June: | Flourishing Together |

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, March 2, 2026 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.



Join The Village Project for a **Community Conversation on Belonging**



March 5, 2026 1:00-3:00pm

Doors open at 12:45 for networking. Event starts promptly at 1:00.

Madelyn Helling Library Community Room

Join The Village Project for a warm and welcoming experience to explore **Community and the Sense of Belonging**. After viewing a short video, we'll move into small, facilitated group conversations. The goal is to help people connect more deeply, experience greater acceptance and well-being, and be inspired to move into heartfelt 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 at: <https://luma.com/2b8ccznh>
or email: thevillageproject.us@gmail.com

To learn more and stay in touch, visit
www.TheVillageProject.us



Stewarding Guidance



Let's Talk About UUCM's Future

During March, Stewardship Team volunteers would like to talk to all members and pledging friends about UUCM's current needs and our exciting move to the Squirrel Creek campus. Visiting stewards are scheduling one-on-one visits as part of our combined Annual Pledge Drive and 3-Year Capital Campaign. These friendly, informative visits can take place wherever you choose—in your home, at UUCM, or at a local coffee shop. You will not be asked to share the amount you are pledging with your visiting steward.

Thank you to all the volunteers and to our co-chairs, Gail Schulz and Gail Johnson Vaughn, who have made this year's combined campaign possible. And thank you to our beloved community for its ongoing support.

– YOUR STEWARDSHIP 2026 TEAM

Nominating Committee

Your UUCM Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for two Board of Trustee positions: Treasurer and Member-at-Large, as well as three Nominating Committee members.

Elections will take place at our annual Community Business Meeting at a to-be-determined date, sometime between June and September. Candidates for Treasurer need not hold a business degree, nor be a financial wizard. A willingness and ability to learn software with support from helpful tutorials is necessary; and a love of logic, math, and numbers is certainly a plus. Our current treasurer, Gail Shulz, has generously offered to serve as a hands-on mentor for the future treasurer. This is a great chance to learn the ropes from a well-seasoned, highly experienced board member who has thoroughly enjoyed her time serving in that role.

Current and former UUCM Board members often describe their time on the board as dynamic, fun, collegial, meaningful work in service to our UUCM community. This is an opportunity for growth and learning, and to give back to our community in an especially appreciated way. Thanks for considering it!

Complete job descriptions can be found [HERE](#). Please indicate interest or ask for further information by contacting the Nominating Committee: nomcom@uugrassvalley.org



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



Art & Aesthetics Team

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

Our Next Exhibit features Jeff Gold

I hope everyone had a chance to see the beautiful artwork of Jenny Dewey and Tamar Shaddeau in our UUCM library over the past three months. We are so fortunate to have such gifted artists ready and willing to share their talents with us. Thank you, Jenny and Tamar!

Our final exhibition in the Church Street building will be one of our more unusual. Jeff Gold will be showing his architectural drawings from over the years, many of them from places you might recognize. His official reception will be in the library, on Sunday, March 8, during both social hours. Please plan to stop by, take in his display and ask any questions that may arise. I, for one, am really looking forward to this last frontier.

In Jeff's own words, here is more about himself and his architectural journey:



Jeff Gold,
ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBIT
OPENING RECEPTION:
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

EARLY YEARS:

My earliest training began at three, thanks to my mother who provided hefty blocks at her pre-school and encouraged my play. At age six (1955),

I remember a nearby house under construction where I would wander through the framing maze and gather bent nails as treasures to save. At age 10 I announced I wanted to be an architect.

In 1957, I had the good fortune to move with my family into a new home, located in the Eichler Greenmeadow residential community of Palo Alto. This development was "modernist" in design, with a community center park, pool and preschool. The homes had radiant heated floors with natural cork tiles, floor to ceiling glass panels, post and beam construction, and wood paneled interiors. I recall the joy of studying the form, lines, and structure of this very simple but elegant home. There were many adventures in the early years that trained my eyes and hands -- drafting classes in 8th and 11th grade, and later on as an Art major at Antioch College taking drawing and sculpture classes in the mid-60s.

Throughout my early developmental years I was encouraged to pursue my passions, with a deep appreciation for all forms of artistic endeavors including instrumental music (clarinetist since

age 9). My family nurtured the values of "team effort" and making contributions to the community.

NEVADA CITY PRACTICE:

In 1988 I moved to Nevada City, set up an office in a custom studio at my new residence where I conducted my design-build practice from 1990 to 2017. Overall, during my 45-year career I completed 250 projects, most of them in Nevada County. The projects are highly varied and include custom residences, historic renovations, commercial and institutional buildings, religious facilities, schools, fire stations (Grass Valley and Gridley), a city hall (city of Gridley), a radio station (KVMR in Nevada City), and long-range planning studies for public and private agencies. A few of the projects include:

- **BriarPatch Cooperative Market:** includes a 25,000 square foot building shell and market interior in 2007, and a more recent addition of parking, landscaping, and a solar panel array that provides over half the electricity required for the market.
- **Granite Wellness Rehabilitation Center:** a 40,000 square foot three-building campus funded by an FHA community development program; this drug-rehab center in Grass Valley includes outpatient, residential and urgent care programs.
- **KVMR Community Radio Station & Nevada Theatre Renovation:** A 10,000 square foot four-story new building designed to be compatible with the downtown historic district of Nevada City; provides broadcasting and staff facilities for the local community radio station, and multi-level backstage facilities for the existing and adjoining Nevada Theatre.
- **Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis:** A 6,000 square foot multipurpose social hall and renovation of the sanctuary for the Davis Church. The project included a long-range master plan and obtaining an updated County Use Permit for the 8-acre property.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY:

I approached each project in my career as a unique opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the building users and harmonious to the site setting. My design philosophy is grounded in collaboration and advocacy of the client, and the importance of durability, sustainability, and the artful nature of creating structure and space.

I emphasized in my design the importance of awareness of nature and indoor-outdoor connections; of natural materials and natural lighting; and the visceral experience of architecture -- its form, structure, space, material surfaces and craft of detailing. I have integrated the practice of architecture with the construction process itself, serving as both architect and building contractor in a master-builder approach for numerous projects throughout my career. The breadth of these skills has made possible a more comprehensive approach toward the "art of building."

UUCM in Migration Mode

A Special Feature by Jenny Dewey

Moving is never easy. Few people like moving, except maybe those paid to move someone else's stuff. Think about the pioneers and what they went through: stalwart men, heat-struck women, thirsty, hungry, homesick children, and snow-packed mountain passes.

Fortunately, our UUCM community doesn't have to travel by covered wagon. A more likely scenario is an unpleasant encounter with a gang of squirrels with no concept of what a Unitarian Universalist is. The squirrels will get used to us, eventually. More pressing is finding out what you can do to help expedite the move.

Volunteers are busy organizing. More volunteers are needed. The Mountain Chalice is a great resource for getting the names of teams and committees ready to assign tasks. Don't be reluctant to search and find a way to help that suits your physical limitations or times of availability.

A brand-new, very informative newsletter with Mark Grove as designated editor debuted on February 20. This newsletter, called "The Bridge," will provide information as to what is going on, what has already been accomplished, and what are known to be needs in the future. If you missed it, contact Mark at the Bridge team to get your copy: THEBRIDGE@UUGRASSVALLEY.ORG. Anyone who has met Mark knows how accessible he is, and easy to talk to. And he has never been intimidated by squirrels. Please feel free to ask him any questions you need answered.

THE NEAR FUTURE

Our community has occupied the former mortuary on Church Street for many years. People have memories going back to the very beginning. While there is a sense of nostalgia for what is being left, there is much to look forward to, for example: People keep saying there will be plenty of parking! and this is certainly true. This is, of course, a big plus. There are a lot more pluses coming with the new building.

There are always snags and unexpected challenges in a move like this – that's where resilience comes in! We'll have lots of stories to tell about the move itself: stretching human muscle-power, maybe wishing for a covered wagon and a brace of sturdy oxen, and reminiscences about the "old days" and our former location.

One way or another our migratory impulses and desires will be met with success. Our community has faced challenges before. Contribute to this enterprise any way you can. And no worries about squirrels. They love peanuts. If you have pockets full of peanuts, their love for Unitarian Universalists will be unconditional.



Justice News and Activities

Bending the Arc Task Force:

By Gail Johnson-Vaughan

POSTCARDING FOR VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING ELECTION HAS BEGUN

We are again partnering with The Center for Common Ground's Get-Out-The-Vote postcard campaign. This campaign targets over 650,000 registered Black voters in Virginia. This redistricting will have national implications, changing VA's balance from six Democrat and five Republican Congressional districts to ten Democrat and one Republican to help balance other redistricting states across the country.

Virginia's special redistricting election is similar to California's Prop 50. The Virginia House and Senate voted to pass four state constitutional amendments, all subject to voter approval. Recently their state supreme court approved the revised congressional district maps.

POSTCARDS CAN BE MAILED MARCH 9 – APRIL 6.

POSTCARDS CAN BE PICKED UP AT UUCM:

- Sundays 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM
- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (*Siobhan takes a lunch break, so it's a good idea to call the UUCM office if you go midday*)
- Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Pre-ordered packets will be on the left side of the postcard table. Look for the bundle with your name. If you did not pre-order packets you can sign out single packets from the box on the right side of the table. UUCM fronts the \$13 cost of each packet of 20 addresses/postcards/stamps etc. We ask writers who are able to reimburse the cost. Want to support the campaign but not write postcards? Consider placing a donation in the donation jar to underwrite the cost of packets for those who want to write but need help with the cost. Write at home, at UUCM's Monday morning postcard parties, invite friends to your own postcard parties, or all the above. UUCM cares and takes action!



Share the Plate

UUCM's January *Share the Plate* partner, [Community Beyond Violence](#) will receive \$1,240, thanks to the generosity of UUCM members, friends, and visitors. These weekly donations add up! Thank you.

As of this writing, we are finishing up collections for our January partner, [FREED Center for Independent Living](#).



Our March *Share the Plate* partner is [Nevada County Citizens for Choice](#). They believe that each person deserves reproductive justice: the ability to make educated choices about their reproductive lives and health, and access to the affordable care they need. They provide affordable, confidential family planning services; the most up-to-date, medically accurate information about one's reproductive health care; and access to quality reproductive health care. They support our local community and have been the trusted source for thousands of people since The Clinic opened in 2006.

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

Recycle for IFM!

Last Saturday of Every Month | 9AM-12PM
Peace Lutheran Church – 828 W Main St, Grass Valley
Bring your **CLEAN & SORTED** recyclables to support IFM!

PLEASE SORT CLEAN ALUMINUM, GLASS AND PLASTIC SEPARATELY

- ✓ CRV bottles & cans (aluminum, plastic, glass)
- ✓ Plastics #1, #2, #5 (check the triangle, and sort separately)
- ✓ Paper/plastic grocery bags & cardboard egg cartons

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO IFM!

Justice Activities



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
- Men's Jackets and Sweatshirts
- Disposable Hand Warmers
- NEW Men's and Women's Underwear/Bras
- Men's and Women's Shoes
- Twin-Size Fitted Sheets, new pillows and pillow cases
- Towels and Blankets
- NEW Unopened 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.

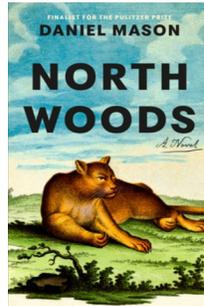
UUCM WORK GROUP

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.

UUCM Book Group

THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 PM
IN THE CHANNING ROOM AT UUCM
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.

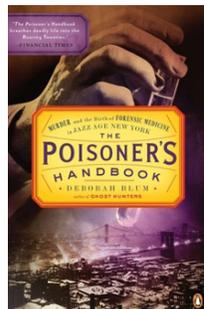


March 24
"North Woods"
by Daniel Mason

This Nevada County Reads selection for this year is available for free at county library branches. "North Woods" is a novel that centers on a New England house built in the 1600s and its inhabitants over the centuries. 384 pp.
Cheryl B. facilitates

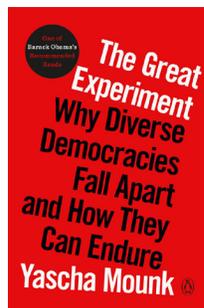
Note: The author, Daniel Mason, will speak at Sierra College Multipurpose Center, 50 Sierra College Drive, in a free event on Saturday, April 11 at 6:00 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND BOOKS FOR DISCUSSION:



April 28
"The Poisoners Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York"
by Debra Blum

The birth of forensic toxicology by a Pulitzer Prize winning science writer. 336 pp.
Ruth E. facilitates.



May 26 "The Great Experiment: Why Diverse Democracies Fall Apart and How They Can Endure"
by Yascha Mounk

A non-fiction book on one of Barack Obama's summer reading lists about the challenges of creating stable, diverse, and fair democracies. 368 pp.
Tony R. facilitates.

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.

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 –

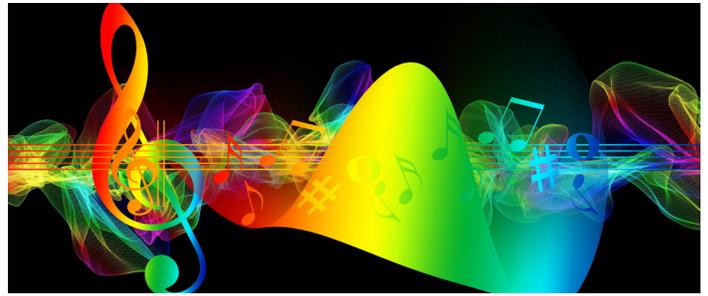
SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM
AT UUCM

Our next meeting is Monday, March 9 at 6:00 PM.

This month's Women's group will start off with our usual delicious potluck, after which our guest instructor Teena will teach a Chair Yoga class. We'll use chairs with some standing postures and stretches as well. Dress in comfortable clothes that you can move in.

Teena Marie Bates teaches chair yoga, as well as gentle and essentials yoga classes locally at Inner Path Yoga. Teena trained in Hatha Yoga and has been teaching yoga since 1987. She believes the Strength of Body, Strength of Mind, Strength of Spirit... reclaim your joyful life, it is our nature to be happy. So come join us. *Please bring a little cash to contribute to an offering to share with her.*

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



Come Sing in the UUCM Choir During the Month of March

Ingrid Holman, director of the New Peace Choir of Nevada County, is back to direct our choir 6:30 - 8:00 PM on Tuesdays in March, and the choir will sing three pieces in the services on Sunday, March 29.

SCHEDULED CHOIR REHEARSALS WITH INGRID HOLMAN:

Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM
March 3, 10, 17 and 24

PERFORMANCE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29
at both Services

All singers are welcome!

For more information, contact music@uugrassvalley.org.



ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE

SECOND & FOURTH FRIDAYS, 1:00-3:00 PM

AT UUCM - ALCOTT ROOM

arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org

Come and meet with other UUs on **Friday, March 13 and 27 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

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



SPIRITUALITY SHARING CIRCLE

FOURTH SATURDAYS, 2:00 - 4:00 PM,

ON-SITE AND VIA ZOOM

Questions? Need a Zoom link? Contact:

Spirituality@uugrassvalley.org

Community Connections



Humanism Discussion Group FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 4, at 10:45 AM at UUCM. We will continue with our UU Humanism Discussion Series consisting of 10 sessions, each with a purpose, suggested readings before the meeting, suggested agenda, and discussion questions.

SESSION 2 – MEANING AND PURPOSE WITHOUT SHARED BELIEF

Purpose: To explore how meaning is created and sustained in a pluralistic UU community.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

1. Wikipedia – [Meaning of Life \(non religious perspectives\)](#)
2. [Council for Secular Humanism – What Is Secular Humanism?](#)
3. Forrest Church –
Selected Quotations by Forrest Church on...

The Meaning of Life and Love:

“The goal is to live in such a way that our lives will prove worth dying for... The one thing that can’t be taken from us, even by death, is the love we give away before we go.”

“Whenever we give our hearts in love, the burden of our vulnerability grows... All of this is worth it. Especially the pain.”

Faith and Existence:

“Religion is the human response to being alive and having to die.”

“We don’t only invent God; we also discover God. Looking at the creation, we strive to deduce the nature of the creator.”

Choice and Heresy:

“Of course, I am a heretic. The word haireisis in Greek means choice; a heretic is one who is able to choose.”

“Ours is a non-creedal church—not because we have no beliefs, but because we will not be restrained in our beliefs.”

Salvation and Health:

“What I’m talking about here, by the way, is salvation. The Latin root, salve, means ‘health.’ Being agnostic about the afterlife, I look for salvation here – not to be saved from life, but to be saved by life, in life, for life.”

AGENDA

- Opening reading (5 min)
- Discussion (45 min)
- Closing reflection (10 min)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do UUs talk about meaning across differing theologies?
2. Is meaning primarily personal, communal, or ethical?
3. How does UU worship support meaning without doctrine?
4. Can shared values substitute for shared beliefs?

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.)

Doing Hard Things in Community

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

As I sit writing this reflection, I am remembering my time with our UUCM children yesterday in Kids' Connection. Our lesson for the day was focused on February's theme of resilience, with a special emphasis on how important family and community are when we are trying to do hard things.

Our story was about a very young Muslim girl who was learning to fast from sunup to sundown during

the Muslim month-long observation of Ramadan. Her family members were very supportive of her while she struggled with the challenges of going through a long day with a rumbly tummy. The message was: when we have a supportive community, we can do hard things. Well, UUCM is certainly in the early stages of doing something that is challenging—moving from our current home on South Church Street to what will be our new home on Squirrel Creek Road. Fortunately, just like the Muslim girl in our story yesterday, we have a supportive community that will make the hard work of moving easier for all of us.



Community together to visit our new home on Squirrel Creek Road. We want to share our ideas about how we hope to use this space, as well as gather additional input from the members of our Kids' Connection community about how it might all come together. We also expect to call upon the members of our Kids' Connection community, children and grown-ups alike, to help make the move to our new home easier for all involved. Specifics about when and how this collaboration might happen are yet to be determined. We will reach out when those details are available. As we move ahead with this exciting new challenge of relocating our home from

South Church Street to Squirrel Creek Road, remember that many hands make light work and we can do hard things when we have the support of our community.

Our photo this month is of two Kids' Connection girls collaborating to design and construct a very impressive altar, complete with a section they called "the woods," another called "the river," and a third called "the beach." This was a complex and challenging creative process, but the two made light work of it all the way through,

supporting each other along the way.

-Cheryl

In the coming months, the Family Ministry Team is looking forward to bringing the Kids' Connection



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

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Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: 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

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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](#)

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