



Countdown!  
**107 days**  
First Service  
June 7th

# the Bridge

VOL. 1  
FEB. 20, 2026



## Welcome! And Here We Go!

Where we've been and where we're going.

Whew! Hello and welcome to UUCM's newsletter designed to keep you informed of the happenings with our move to our new Squirrel Creek Road home. We've been looking for a long time to grow our community and spread the message of love and acceptance that is all things UU. While this first edition is in no way the final format, we thought is best to keep everyone informed and communicate what we know already.

So, please excuse us for any warts along the way – but know that this is YOUR newsletter. Give us your suggestions, questions, thoughts and ideas. In time, there will be many interactive, meaningful features that are informative and fun! Have an idea? Suggestion? What do you want to know? Want to contribute with an essay, article, layout, photo shoot, drawing, quote, song? No need to limit yourself – bring us your IDEAS! Or just enjoy. Send an e-mail to [TheBridge@UUGrassValley.org](mailto:TheBridge@UUGrassValley.org).

We start out this first edition with a feature interview with Jeff Gold, who knows as much as anyone about the Squirrel Creek acquisition and transition. You'll also find the first of many reports from the Facilities Preparation Committee and a message from our Volunteer Coordination Team.

So... sit back, relax, enjoy... and hang on!

Send your suggestions!



## Interview with Jeff Gold by Jenny Dewey

A quote from Jeff:

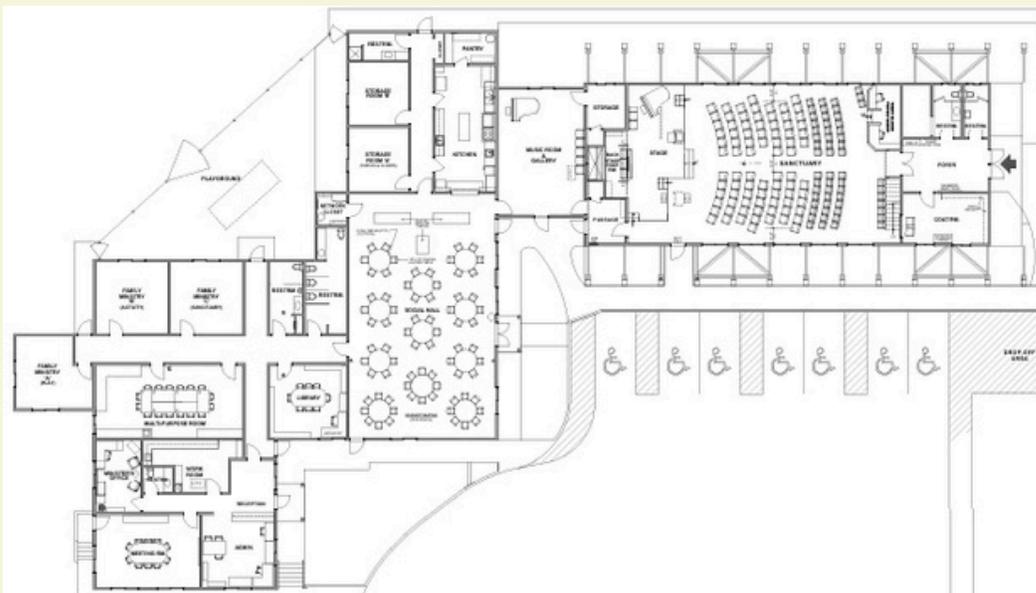
“Our community will learn to live into our new space...”

Talking with Jeff Gold about our move to Squirrel Creek is enlightening and exciting. Because he is an architect his perspective on the building is unique. He considers the physical aspect of a structure to determine if it is sound – in his words, “if it has good bones”. Another important part of his role is to make sure the building meets the needs and expectations of those looking to take possession. To date the word is: everything is falling into place in all the best possible ways. The new location is spacious enough to allow for expanding in all sorts of directions. Priorities have been established as to immediate needs, what comes next, and what is planned and hoped for in the future.

A new roof is already in place. Task Teams are getting volunteers together to scrub, choose-which-rooms-are-for-which purpose, think-and-rethink the kitchen, and of course much, much more. There are challenges. There are always challenges.

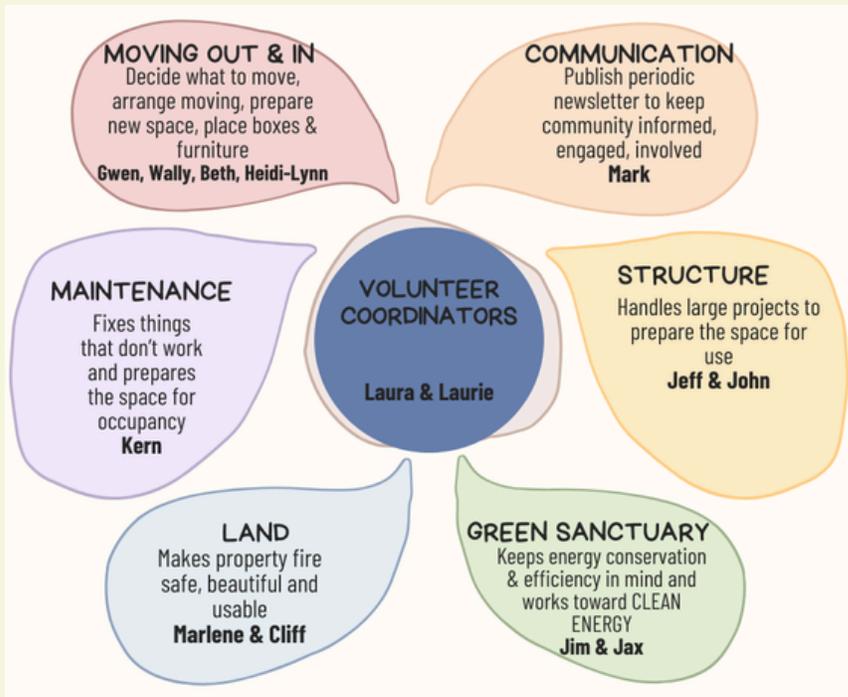
I think about the building on Squirrel Creek, and I remember a story about Michaelangelo. He was asked to explain how he knew he could draw forth from a hunk of marble the Vatican Pieta, one of the most beautiful figures ever sculpted. He responded saying he looks at a piece of marble for a long time. He studies it and eventually he sees the sculpture within the marble and he brings it forth. This idea of how to shape and bring form and substance to an object can be applied many ways. Unitarian Universalists often think this way, working from the inside out instead of the outside in.

There is no doubt our community will learn to live into the new space.



Squirrel Creek Floor Plan

Questions? What  
would you like to  
know?



## SEND IN YOUR IDEAS

Some of the ideas we've already received: Put in a Labyrinth, grow food, allow Mutual Aid to store things in our garage, be a food delivery location, let Rotary operate their plastic bailer in our shed.



## VOLUNTEER!

Dear UUCM Community,

I am excited to share the initial details regarding the tasks needed to prepare our buildings for the upcoming move from Church Street to Squirrel Creek.

In the next week or so, I will post detailed job descriptions and sign-up sheets in the Channing Room. We have several teams that need volunteers:

- Moving Out: Led by Gwen Eymann and Wally Holtan
- Moving In: Led by Beth Karrow and Heidi-Lynn Tayler
- Lands: Led by Marlene and Cliff Bottenfield
- Maintenance: Led by Kern Hildebrand

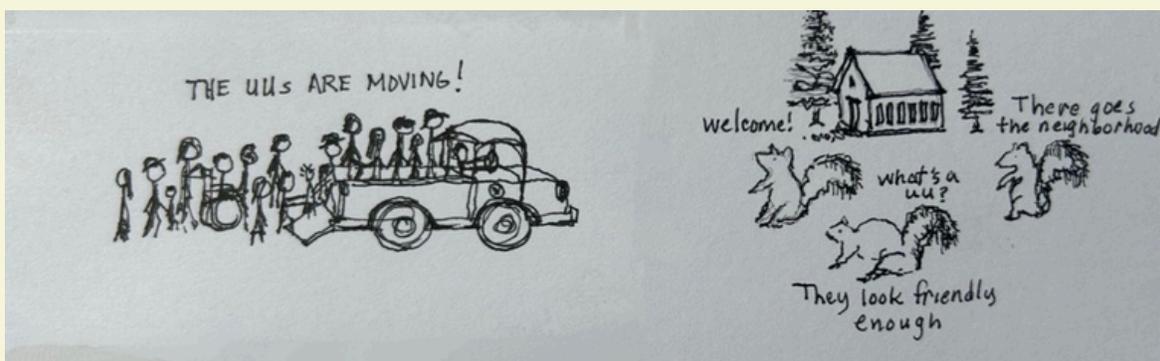
I have asked these team leaders to identify specific tasks, the number of volunteers required, and estimated completion times.

In most cases the actual start time of these tasks cannot be determined until we know that the Squirrel Creek tenants have vacated the premises.

Please look for the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the Channing Room. You can also reach out to me via call, text, or email; my updated contact information will be published soon.

There will be a variety of ways to support our new home, and I am confident there is a task for everyone.

With Abundant Gratitude & Joy,  
Laurie Bell  
Volunteer Coordinator



## From the Facilities Preparation Committee

UUCM has this wonderful new facility at Squirrel Creek. The facility is wonderful, but not perfect: there are things that we need and want to do. The Facilities Planning Committee (FPC), which includes Carol Richey, Jeff Gold, Kern Hildebrand, and Alec MacLean, along with other key advisors, has the job of identifying what those things are and how to get them done. If we had unlimited money, we'd start in immediately and do them all. Absent that bottomless well of dollars, the FPC is looking at all the tasks and determining in what order to do them, using the money we do have. Here is a view into how this is being done.

First off, there are things that we absolutely have to do for the safety of our people and our building, such as door security, re-keying locks, and installing equipment to the fire alarm system. We also think it's a good idea to add handrails on the steps up to the stage.

We have in the budget money for actual moving expenses such as boxes, packing materials, and possibly trucks. We will need professionals to move the piano; whether we will need to hire other professional movers is yet to be determined. These costs are obviously not optional, but could be significantly reduced with volunteer help.

Next, we have tasks that we must undertake or we will not be able to use the building for worship services. We need to be able to see and hear Rev. Kevin and anybody else who is speaking, singing, or playing. We need to be able to show the slides that have words to songs, important quotes, and whatever other visuals arise during service. And we need to be able to do all of this for the people attending service via Zoom. There is a significant amount of hardware that goes into making this all happen, and unfortunately there are technical reasons why we can't just take all of the equipment we have at Church Street with us.

Then we have things that should be done to make the space a place we really want to be. One of the main things of this ilk is the heating and air conditioning, which is inadequate for the space. Likewise, damaged carpets and inadequate lighting are not only important for feeling like this is our new home, but will be much more easily and cost-effectively done before we occupy the space. We are also planning on painting over messages on the walls that are not consistent with our UU values and culture.

After estimating the costs of the above-named tasks, they are what we can do with the money we currently have in hand. There are still several other items which fall into the previous category, and we will undertake them as soon as we can afford to do so. We anticipate this will be when the first round of pledges to the capital campaign are paid. One example of these is restriping our wonderful parking lot, including handicap parking.

That still leaves a number of things that we want to do and expect we will do, but we can wait to do those tasks. In many of these cases, we want to have been in the church for a while before we decide what we want to do, and in what order. Jeff Gold has called this the "Live and Learn" method. You will have opportunities in the near future to share your thoughts.

We would also like to point out that some or all of the costs for certain of these tasks can be reduced or eliminated by using volunteers. Painting is a good example of this; the people who recently did the painting at Church Street had a great time together, and saved UUCM a bundle of money. At Squirrel Creek, we've already had the joy of seeing a group removing all the bushes that were too close to the building. And when moving comes around . . . !

How can you help? Watch for this column in the newsletter or UUCM Connect for volunteer opportunities, or speak directly to Laurie Bell, the volunteer coordinator.

All of us working together will make Squirrel Creek our home.



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