

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

May 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 •••

MAY THEME: AWAKENING CURIOSITY

May 3 Holy Curiosity
 Gail Johnson Vaughan and Cheryl Morris,
 Worship Associates

What if there was a magic pill that could reduce worry, make us less judgmental and more humble, help us see the world anew? What if that same pill was a tool for social change, increased connection with others, and reducing suffering? Would you take it?

This week we introduce the monthly theme of Awakening Curiosity and see what we can learn. Warning, there may be side effects!

May 10 Courageous Curiosity
 Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate, with
 Susan Gregory, Joyce Wilson and Yvonne Bartlett.

We live in a country split by deep differences in beliefs about what it takes to make America the nation our founders designed. Many of us have leaned into the hard work of being curious about our role in healing this divide and on the way are learning new and interesting things about ourselves.

As hard as these paths of curiosity are, might there be a part of us that doesn't want curiosity to just be fun or interesting, a part that wants to be enriched with the courage and skill to dialogue deeply with some of those on the other side of the divide?

This service invites us into the spiritual practice of deep dialogue across difference.

May 17 The Wonders of Rediscovery
 Randy McKean, Worship Associate

Philosopher of ancient Greece Heraclitus viewed the world as constantly in flux, famously saying we can never step twice into the same river, that we are in a continual state of becoming, never being. All the same, the riverbed is solid beneath our feet. As UUCM prepares to transition to its new home at Squirrel Creek, Randy will unveil An Ode to 246 Church Street, the poem that congregants created as a group at our March 22 services. Let's get our toes wet and praise where we have been as we prepare to flow onward to new shores.

Continued on Page 4

▶ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ◀

Item	Page
Upcoming Services.....	1
The Minister	2
Board of Trustees	3
Words from the Worship Team	4
Evening Contemplative Service.....	4
Stewardship Team.....	5
Membership	5
Art & Aesthetics: Ruth Ghio Book Launch & Reading.....	6
Parish & Lay Pastoral Care Teams	6
Special Feature: Awakening Curiosity.....	7
Justice News and Activities.....	8
Community Connections	9-10
UUCM Book Group.....	10
UUCM Family Ministry	11
Info and Office Hours.....	12



Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

What is the Next Life-Giving Choice I Can Make?

My question for the year keeps rising up to meet me, or sometimes, as some would say, to bite me in the butt. It is a question I learned from one of my mentors, a spiritual guide and companion, and it turns out to be a question for exactly any and every moment. It always serves, meaning it is both pesky and perpetually appropriate.

“What IS the next life-giving choice I can make?”

Facing undulating questions of life and death with a close family member over the past few months has had one of those profound reorienting effects on me, thinning out the surface noise to surface stronger clarity about what matters ultimately. At the exact same time, at a seemingly opposite end of the spectrum but reaching toward another edge of the same clarity, I’ve renewed a deep and now more mature relationship with a past love. Once you add in the actively reorienting and clarifying dynamics of the congregation’s move-in-progress to a new home that opens up both amazing possibility as well as deeper demands, not to mention the world, the wars, the attempts to dismantle democracy, and human shortsightedness in general, my trying to figure out what to do in given moment feels like facing “everything, everywhere, all at once.”

Thus, the value of the question, moment by moment: “What is the next life-giving choice I can make?”

I am just beginning to learn to live into it, an effort that is still three quarters aspirational.

Our May Soul Matters Theme is “Awakening Curiosity.” It brings to mind the spiritual encouragement to remain curious rather than be unconsciously reactionary – curious about ourselves and what is going on inside of us; curious about what another person is thinking, feeling, experiencing and why they might have the perspectives they do; curious about the many possible ways to approach an important challenge or apparent obstacle; curious past the obvious, the automatic, the assumed, the expected.

While I am drawn to the calm, spacious, and neutral energy of that approach (I’m an Enneagram 9, after all), I find myself looking, in addition, to the way that asking, “What is the

next life-giving choice I can make?” gives the outcome of that curiosity some direction, toward what is “life-giving.” That positive edge opens up my heart and invites me to lean forward gently to a next answer. It is helping me tease out of “everything, everywhere, all at once” the thread of a next action. My personal curiosity is awakening in this direction.

As the energy for the active part of the congregation’s move to Squirrel Creek Road increases this month, I’ll be on sabbatical most of May (planned over a year ago, before the building purchase arose), returning near the end of May so I can participate in the final UUCM service at 246 South Church Street on May 31. I’ll be preparing for, participating in, and helping to lead another UU history pilgrimage in Poland. I’ll also fit in another family visit. Meanwhile, your Worship Team will be leading fabulous Sunday services, and there will be myriad opportunities to join in the preparations for moving, both at Church Street and at Squirrel Creek. I encourage those of you who live here to join in. This is, after all, your congregation and community, and participating heightens one’s sense of belonging.

As the flurry of activity rises, in your own life as well as part of the congregation’s move, I invite you to keep this question at hand, ready to pull out at any moment that calls for it, which is, as I noted, pretty much any and every moment, but especially the sticky ones that involve other people:

“What is the next life-giving choice I can make?”

“What IS the next life-giving choice I can make?”

May it serve you and this community well.

If I didn’t see you on April 26, I hope to see you on May 31 for an important “celebration of life” for 246 South Church Street and all that it represents.

with care, anticipation, and curiosity,

– Rev. Kevin

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS



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

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



Board of Trustees

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

Serving the Congregation

Last month I wrote about the process loop of observing, orienting, deciding, and acting that we are following as we prepare our new building for occupancy within the limits of time and resources, both human and financial. Action has been the modus operandi of the month of April with awe-inspiring energy, effort, teamwork, collaboration and progress! The details are captured in The Bridge newsletter about the most up-to-date activities going on. As the preparation of the new building hits high gear, your Board is also doing our best to close the sale of our Church St. building. The loop of decision-making applies here as well. The buyer is almost finished with the inspections he is doing before finalizing the purchase. He originally asked for 30 days but now needs an extension through the end of April. The reason for the extra time is to thoroughly understand the environmental impact of buying a building that has a history of being used for embalming that was typically conducted in a mortuary. Also, one of the completed inspections revealed that asbestos is on the roof and siding tiles of the garages. Our buyer is working with the City of Grass Valley to comply with the requirements necessary to convert the building into residential units. On-site parking and storage requirements call for remodeling the garages and in doing so, removing the materials containing asbestos. This is an expensive process, and the buyer has asked UUCM to share in the cost. After careful consideration, the Board agreed to a \$10,000 reduction in the price, bringing it to \$515,000. UUCM is fortunate that we have financial flexibility to make this adjustment rather than start all over to find another buyer.

Last month I also wrote about the rewards of working on a team focused on UUCM's long-term mission. This year's Board has had to make some very difficult decisions and has approached each one with care and concern toward the best outcome for the congregation. This has not been easy, but every Board member has been fully engaged in the decision-making process and contributing deep insight into the decisions we have made. It is a great honor to serve on the Board with this amazing group of people: Jeff Gold, Gail Schulz, Lin Jovanovic, Charlene Dugan, Gwen Eymann, and Mark Grove. And, besides serving on the Board, each member has taken on other roles to accomplish the transition

to our new home. Jeff is working tirelessly to bring vision and design to the new space. Gail and Charlene have completed a successful capital campaign to raise the funds needed for the move. Gwen is leading the packing and moving of the Church Street contents and making decisions about what we have accumulated for 30 years. Mark is editor in chief of The Bridge newsletter, keeping readers informed of the process of this undertaking. Lin is leading a team charged with identifying UUCM with outside signage reflective of the image we want to display. Your Board members have also been getting dirty and helping in many other ways to prepare the new building. This is truly an incredible team! Serving on the Board, committees, teams, and work groups is one of the many opportunities we have as part of this community, to "cultivate our spiritual, emotional, and intellectual strength to create a world more compassionate, sustainable, and just."

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

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



May 2026, the last month in our Church Street home. While it has been great fun to see photos of volunteers hard at work at Squirrel Creek, and hear of welcoming neighbors, and marvel at all the work being done in both locations, poignancy is also front and center as the reality of the move draws closer. Your Worship Team hopes that the several recent services with a focus on transition have been meaningful and helpful. We are hard at work now planning the final service at Church Street as well as the first one at Squirrel Creek Road.

So many people contribute their time and energy to make the UUCM Sunday morning experience what it is. The weekly Thank You slide identifies folks with a certain level of visibility, but what about those whose contributions are not noticed, maybe even taken for granted? This would include choir members, anyone who helps arrange chairs or collects hymnals or picks up scraps from those dark wood floors that do show every piece of lint. Then there are those who consistently reach out to newcomers, notice who is sitting or standing alone and make a point of connecting with them, or speak first to break the ice when a question is posed to the congregation.

As we experience our last few Sunday mornings in the Church Street building this month, let's be mindful of all the people and all the ways we can contribute before, during, and after the actual service. The whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts, and this spirit will not be left behind but will travel with us to our new church home.

- Cheryl & Carol



Upcoming Soul Matters Themes

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, May 4, 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.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Continued from Page 1

May 24 ***Singing Compassion, Resistance, and Resilience with Heather Grove***
Randy McKean, Worship Associate, with musicians Michelle Amador, Tim Bulkley and Mark Grove

UUCM's frequent musical contributor Heather Grove will lead a special music-themed service centered on the Singing Resistance movement which emerged from the context of the federal occupation of Minneapolis in December 2025/Winter 2026. Heather and a full band will lead us in song as she also provides history of the movement and her personal journey to becoming a Singing Resistance song leader and organizer.

May 31 ***Gratitude, Blessings, and Farewell***
Rev. Kevin Tarsa and the Worship Team

As we gather for our last Sunday service at 246 South Church Street, we will lift up gratitude for this place that has been our congregational home for over 20 years, for the many ways it has blessed us and been blessed by us. Through ritual, song, spoken words, and silence we will say a fond farewell.

Stewardship Team



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

Whew! We Made It!

By Ellen Goodwin, Stewardship Team Member

THANK YOU to all the members and friends who donated so generously to both our annual pledge drive and three-year capital campaign. Your generosity has allowed us to meet the congregation's ambitious goals for both campaigns.

HERE ARE THE TOTALS AS OF APRIL 26:

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE:

For the 2026-27 annual pledge drive, we received 135 pledges totaling \$293,385. These funds will cover UUCM's expected operating expenses for the coming year.

CAPTIAL CAMPAIGN:

Donations to our capital campaign exceeded our goal of \$1.3 million. The total to date is \$1,408,799. These funds, combined with the proceeds from the sale of our current building, will allow us to move into the Squirrel Creek facility debt-free—and to make necessary repairs and upgrades to the building. Please note: The capital campaign continues for three years during which you can make contributions anytime.

Our combined campaign required the time and talents of many volunteers. Thank you **ALL** for supporting our beloved community. The seeds we are planting today will bear fruit for years to come at Squirrel Creek.

IF YOU HAVE **NOT** YET SUBMITTED YOUR PLEDGE

for the combined annual pledge drive, **please do so**. You can drop off your pledge form at the UUCM office or click this link to make your pledge [ONLINE](#).

If you have any questions, contact one of the Stewardship Team co-chairs, Gail Schulz (Stewardship@uugrassvalley.org) or Gail Johnson Vaughn (GailJV@uugrassvalley.org).

– YOUR STEWARDSHIP 2026 TEAM



Membership

Laura Harter
Chair, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

UUCM life is busy and bustling these days. As I take a moment to pause on what is most pressing to communicate this month, I am humbled by the all the ways we come together to support this move to Squirrel Creek. Plans, opinions, and options evolve in ways that are inspiring and humbling. Pragmatism and deadlines are grounding and reassuring. I found a helpful quote in this month's Soul Matter's packet, Margaret J. Wheatley's wrote,

"Ask what's possible, not what's wrong. Keep asking."

I would follow that with,

"...and then decide with love and care."

I see this happening every day as we approach our Squirrel Creek's opening on June 7.

What is Membership's most important message this month? It is a request and invitation. We invite you to find a way to regularly help the Membership Team. We ask you not because we are deficient, but because we have so much to offer. Yes, we invite all of you to step up in addition to what you already do at UUCM. But it's not a big ask or a big lift. It's not duty or obligation. It's an opportunity to take care of yourself as you connect to others and hone your ability to give and receive. As we know, giving and receiving are essential to our individual and collective well-being. This balance is at the heart of Membership Team activities.

Consider being an occasional Membership Team helper, a regular helper, a lead helper, or a spontaneous helper. It is not all or nothing. The more of us who identify and participate in Membership Team activities the merrier. Consider getting outside your comfort zone or snuggling in just right - either works. Want to learn more about what Membership does and how you might help - please reach out to Laura at membership@uugrassvalley.org.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Laura

MEMBERSHIP TEAM:

Laura Harter, Chair,

Jim Bair, Laurie Bell, Ruth Edwards, and Susan Merrill



A & A Team

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



Parish Care

Gwen Eymann
Coordinator, UUCM Parish Care
Caring@uugrassvalley.org

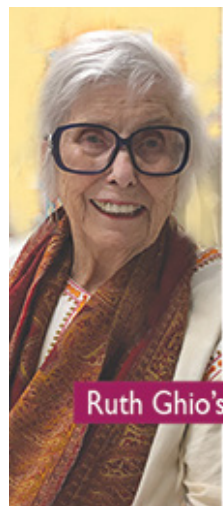
UUCM Member Book Launch

Ruth Ghio: "Still Looking...," "Looking After...," and "Looking Within..."

BOOK LAUNCH – SATURDAY MAY 2, 2:00 PM
AT UUCM

Don't forget: on Saturday, May 2 at 2:00 PM, we will have a gathering here at the Church Street location to honor the completion of Ruth's memoirs and the fulfillment of her dream! You are warmly invited to join us for this book launch celebrating the publication of the three final volumes of Ruth's intriguing and often poignant life adventures.

In Book Two, we follow her life from high school through college. Book Three carries us from her marriage in Oakland, California, all the way to family, children, a teaching career and to her years at Chico State where she worked to garner her first Master of Arts degree in Education. Book Four offers the life-spanning works of Ruth Ghio the poet and is filled with classic Ghio depth, grit, humor, and unflinching observations. Please join us for this afternoon of reading and happy celebration of Ruth and her multifaceted life.



Please join us
for the launch & readings from
Volumes Two, Three & Four of Ruth Ghio's Memoirs
Saturday, May 2, 2-4:30 pm
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Mountains
In the Sanctuary
Grass Valley, California

Ruth Ghio's Sequels to *Looking for Love in the Sears Catalog*

- Vol. 2 Still Looking...
- Vol. 3 Looking After...
- Vol. 4 Looking Within... (poetry)

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

Awakening Curiosity

A Special Feature by Jennifer Dewey

Kids are known to ask between 200 and 300 questions a day. Children are curious by nature. The range of kid-questions is broad, even limitless. The world is big with a lot of bewildering moving parts.

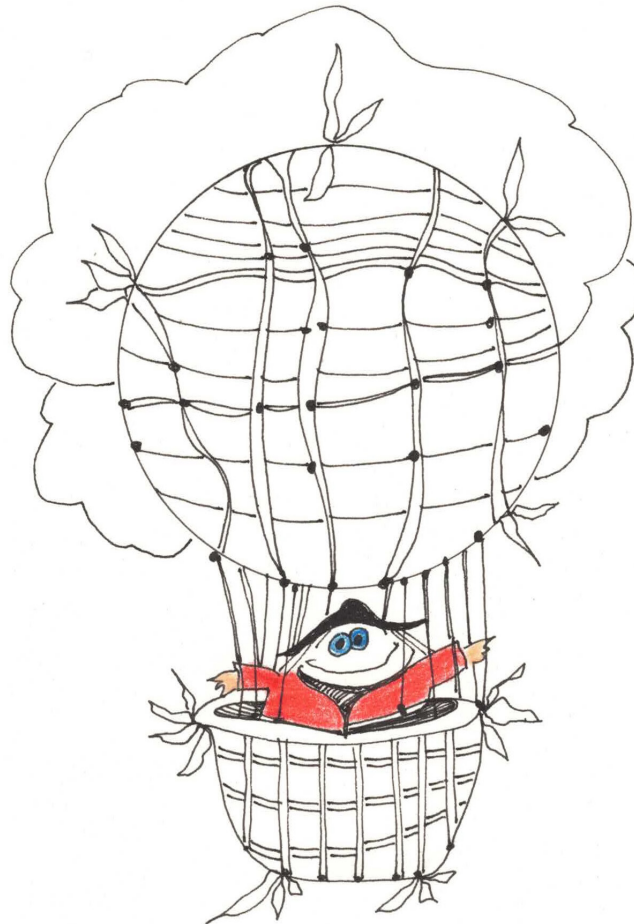
Adults have the advantage. Grown-ups assume they know so much more than kids. I once hacked a golf ball open to see what was inside. (A thousand miles of rubber bands). My curiosity was not appreciated. I got into trouble for ruining a perfectly good golf ball. Curiosity evolves as we grow older. When we're all grown up, curiosity is sometimes considered rude and intrusive. It's a good thing Albert Einstein wasn't influenced by this kind of thinking. One of the best remarks he ever made, and he made a lot of memorable remarks, was, "I have no special talent, only passionate curiosity."

Anatole France, a favorite writer of mine, author of *Penguin Island*, a satire on human behavior, believed curiosity was what teachers were made for, "to awaken the young mind..."

Awakening the mind is one way to describe what Awakening Curiosity means. Curiosity is the force that drives innovation. We grow personally when we are curious, and we overcome fear, and we are urged to experience adventure.

Curiosity is wonder. It is amazement and delight. It is the fundamental conviction the human spirit is a blessing intended to be experienced.

I walked alone in mid-July across a waterless desert as forbidding as any on Earth. After the first day (of two) I was sure I'd never make it out alive. I counted the people I knew who'd miss me when I was dead.



During the second day, after a night sleeping on the sand by a badger den, I regretted having grim thoughts. Curiosity about what I saw everywhere around me replaced fear. Instead of thinking about who would miss me, I focused on where an iridescent beetle was heading, or what sort of animal, a lizard or a mouse, had made tracks across a salt flat.

The concept of awakening to curiosity is as old as our species. The first upright human who bent low and turned over a rock, curious to know what was underneath, set the stage for our endless, and infinite, quest for understanding our world and ourselves.

Awakening to curiosity deepens the mystery of who we are and why we are here. Curiosity drives creativity and believing in the power of the human spirit.

A suggestion: try asking 200 or 300 questions a day and see if you can achieve this. If you can, you will get a gold star.

Justice News and Activities

Postponing Selection of FY 26-27 Share the Plate Partner

With all the excitement and energy being poured into the move to our new home, the Justice Team has decided to postpone the selection of the *Share the Plate* recipient organizations until July. Since Board policy provides that Interfaith Food Ministry and Hospitality House must be among the 12 organizations chosen, we will designate those two recipients for July and August.

The Justice Team plans to accept nominations for new *Share the Plate* recipient organizations before June 15, create the ballot and open voting in July, then tally votes and announce the *Share the Plate* recipients in August.

Thank you all for your generous offerings and for your generous flexibility in this year's timeline!



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
- Twin-Size Fitted Sheets, **new** pillows and pillow cases
- Towels and Blankets
- NEW Unopened Toiletries - Shampoo, Conditioner, Razors, Soap – *Travel size ideal.*

The most current update on their needs: <https://hhshelter.org/>

Please leave donations in the designated bin in UUCM's Ballou Room (small room behind the kitchen.)

Thank you for your generosity, Laurie Bell

Share the Plate

UUCM's March *Share the Plate* partner, [Nevada County Citizens for Choice](#) will receive \$1,529.50, 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 April partner, [Nevada County Immigration Rights Network](#).



Our May *Share the Plate* partner is [Interfaith Food Ministry](#).

IFM fights food insecurity in Nevada County, providing nutritious groceries to thousands. They distribute almost two million pounds of food annually, building community and ensuring that no one goes hungry.

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



Voted Best Nonprofit in Nevada County in 2024!

IFM still needs volunteer food sorters, checkers, and distribution drivers. If you are interested, contact Victoria at IFM for more information. [Interfaith Food Ministry](#)

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 Paul Elias at: justice@uugrassvalley.org.

IFM RECYCLING PROGRAM COLLECTION

Last Saturday of Each Month from 9:00 AM to Noon
NEXT DONATION DAY: Saturday, May 30, 2026

Peace Lutheran Church Parking Lot
828 West Main St., Grass Valley

- 1 CRV Aluminum, Glass and Plastic, Clean and Sorted
- 2 Plastics #1, #2, #5 (check triangle, sort separately)
- 3 Paper/plastic grocery bags and cardboard egg cartons

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, May 11 at 6:00 PM.

This month's Women's group will start off with our usual delicious potluck, then Linda Siska will show us how to make a "Zentangle," a relaxing art form that anyone can do. We'll create tiles featuring the tangle called Huggins. You will need to bring a black pen – Micron fine point pens are great, but a ball point pen will do just fine – and a pencil, #2 preferred, but again, any pencil will do. The tiles (paper squares) will be provided for you. Let's plan on a fun evening making art together!

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



TRANSITION DISCUSSION
AND GRIEF GROUP
SECOND & FOURTH
SATURDAYS, 3:00-4:30 PM
AT UUCM

Our May Meetings are on **May 9 and May 23.**
TransitionDiscussionGroup@uugrassvalley.org

Have you had feelings about UUCM moving to the new campus on Squirrel Creek? Perhaps you are sad about leaving UUCM's current location. Perhaps you have some fears about adjusting to the new campus. Perhaps you are afraid of the increased costs.

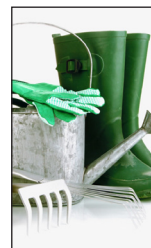
UUCM is offering this safe, friendly group just for the purpose of exploring these feelings. The group will also explore ways to maintain the supportive atmosphere of the old UUCM at the new campus, and it is open to members, friends, and guests. Please come with your feelings and ideas.

The group will meet twice a month on the second and fourth Saturdays from 3:00 to 4:30 PM at UUCM's Church Street location. If you have questions, contact Ruth Edwards at TransitionDiscussionGroup@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, May 8 and 22 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
THIRD 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.

Please note that when we move to Squirrel Creek, our LONG TERM leader of Building and Grounds, Wally Holtan, will be retiring. This will be his final time leading the group. Please show Wally your appreciation for his many years of dedicated service when you see him.

Community Connections



HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 13 at 10:45 AM at UUCM. We will continue with the 10-session UU Humanism Discussion Series.

SESSION 4 – REASON, SCIENCE AND SPIRITUAL HUMILITY

Purpose: To explore the role of reason and science within UU spirituality.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

1. [The Case for Scientific Humanism](#)
2. [Scientific Skepticism](#)
3. [UU Sources of Living Tradition and 7 Values](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do UUs balance skepticism and reverence?
2. What does intellectual or spiritual humility mean?
3. Where does science end and wisdom begin?
4. How should we respond when evidence changes our views?

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.)



UUCM's August 2026 Camping Trip

The annual UUCM camping trip will be held August 21-23 in a return engagement at Plumas Eureka State Park near Graeagle. If you are interested in going, email: shannondooleymiller@uugrassvalley.org for more details.

Several of us have reserved campsites already, and some of us are able to share campsites. If you're not a camper but would like to join us for activities and campfires, there are hotels and resorts in Graeagle, about 15 minutes from our campground.



We'll have our annual Saturday potluck campfire night on August 22. We are excited to gather again to explore, relax, and rekindle our camping spirits. *Come join us.*

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.

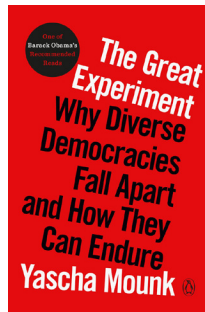
THIS MONTH'S SELECTION:

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.



[Tuesday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

Please give at least one week's notice to attend by Zoom.

Moving Day— The Kids' Connection Version

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

The month of May is shaping up to be an exciting one, not only for downstairs UUCMers, but also for upstairs UUCMers. For the entire month of May, our activities during Kids' Connection will focus on learning all about moving. What does it mean "to move"? Why do people move? Why is UUCM moving? How does it feel to move? How can we prepare ourselves for a move? What strategies make a move easier?

We will read books about moving. We will share with each other our individual stories about moving. We will share with each other our hopes and dreams for this UUCM move to Squirrel Creek. Collectively, we will make some moving plans. We will pack some boxes to prepare for the move. Later in the month, we plan to have a "field trip" to the new location so that the children and their parents can see what the new facilities are like. Moving is a big topic, and it provides so much for us to think and talk about.

We also want to help the children say goodbye to the suite of rooms that have been our UUCM home for so many years now. I plan to take photos of the children in their favorite UUCM spaces, where they have played and worked and eaten and conversed with each other.

The goal is to send families these photos of their children in these rooms. I hope that these photos will help to consolidate the children's memories of this place where they learned about and from each other, where they explored UU values and principles, where they built a community of support for each other.



As Lindsay Dunkel so wisely reminded me one day, children typically are not involved in the shaping and carrying out of moving plans. Moves too often just happen to them. We will be using the month of May to ensure that our UUCM children are able to participate in this move, that the move does not just happen to them. In so doing, we hope that it will be a smooth and empowering experience for all UUCMers, young and not-so-young alike.

-Cheryl



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

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

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Siobhan Boylan, *Office Administrator*

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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