

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

June 2026

UPCOMING SERVICES

NEW! Our Sunday Service is at 10:00 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 10:00 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 12 for Kid-Centered Activities •••

JUNE THEME: FLOURISHING TOGETHER

June 7 **Made Holy By Our Presence**

Members of the Worship Team, Rev. Kevin, and All

In this, the first service at our new home on Squirrel Creek, we celebrate all the ways that we are bringing community with us. It's a different building, not a different church. Through song, ritual, spoken word, and silence we take this first step toward making it holy by our presence. Please join us.

June 14 **Growing a Beloved Community**

Rev. Kevin, with Carol Nimick, Worship Associate.

*"The place where we meet to seek the highest is holy ground."
- Felix Adler*

It's tempting to people both outside and inside Unitarian Universalism to characterize our faith tradition "as every kind of psycho-social-political venture except a religious one," wrote Tom Owen-Towle, who contends, instead, that healthy congregations are "primarily sites for seeking and spreading the holy." Here in new space, with our varied beliefs and perspectives and with room to grow both inwardly and outwardly, how might we together grow a Beloved Community and realize that we occupy holy ground?

June 21 **Sing Out Love: A Mostly-Music Service**

UUCM musicians and friends, with Rev. Kevin and Gail Johnson Vaughan, Worship Associate

UUCM continues its annual all-music service, this year vibrating the rafters of a new congregation home with the artistry and hearts of UUCM musicians and friends, including the ringing voices of all assembled. Together, let's "Sing Out Love" (and play out Love), as the title of the new virtual UU song source invites, and so bless this new home for all that it will yet hold.

June 28 **Creating Our Beloved Community through Curiosity and Inclusivity**

Marlene Bottenfield, Worship Associate, with George Dunstan

FLOURISHING TOGETHER: We are the Beloved Community; when we hold each other in acceptance in spite of our theological differences, we grow our understanding of not only each other, but also of ourselves.

Join a UUCM Pop-Up Choir with Rev. Kevin! Rehearse at 9:00 sharp, sing in the 10:00 service.

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Board of Trustees

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

Moving Forward

June 2026 will be a momentous time in the history of UUCM. Our South Church Street property is sold, and we are now tenants (rent free) until we vacate the building by June 6. Belongings that are familiar are disappearing into packing boxes and long forgotten items stored away in hidden places are being recycled, reused, or scrapped. The Squirrel Creek property is full of renewed life as it takes on the spirit of energetic members and friends dedicated to preparing the building and grounds for the official opening on June 7 at 10:00 AM.

The level of love and care, creativity, cooperation, and sweat that have been infused into birthing our new community home is more impressive than words can describe. Coupled with the contributions of labor, we are incredibly fortunate to have the financial support of members and friends that allowed us to purchase the building outright and make substantial improvements in the quality of the property. As exciting as this move is, the change will be challenging in many ways. I am confident that we will meet the challenges through leadership, long-range planning, and reliance on the many voices of our congregation.

Your Board has begun discussions about some of the changes to consider. An easy one to start with is the request that food and open beverages not be brought into the sanctuary. We have much more space now including a large social hall and kitchen that make it no longer necessary to eat where we worship. Of course, water in closed containers is appreciated. Your Board also sees the need to engage more voices in the process of deciding on the second phase of property improvements to be made with remaining capital campaign funds. We will form a new Facilities Committee for these important decisions and look for new people interested in guiding these decisions.

Another consideration is taking a fresh look at our outreach and communication with the larger community. What do we or can we offer that is attractive to people who don't yet know about Unitarian Universalism? How can we use fundraising with new opportunities to open our doors for larger and different events? Also, how can we share our abundance with

like-minded non-profit organizations? Growth will be important to support the requirements of having a larger facility. Yes, our costs will increase and relying on volunteers to care for the building and grounds as we have done in the past will likely not be sustainable. Preparing a budget for our first year at Squirrel Creek will be a challenge but we have reserves from past years as well as from capital campaign funds to bridge us through the next few years.

In previous years, we would be holding our annual community business meeting in June but due to the large effort needed to move, that meeting has been delayed. The key matters for your consideration will be electing new Board members and approving an operating budget for the next fiscal year which begins July 1. At mid-year CBM, the membership voted to allow continuation of the current Board and budget until such time as we can hold a meeting. There is much to look forward to and much to look back on as we move ahead to build on the 30 years of a strong and enduring foundation.

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

And here we are! June finds us settling into our new church home. Like any move, whether we chose it or not, it's a strange time. Some things fall into place easily, some not so much. Some things are simple, some are not. Some things we expected to work well just don't, and other things are unexpectedly just right. For sure, it is not just business as usual. And that's a good thing.

One benefit of the move was the number of new volunteers that appeared, or regular volunteers that showed up in a different capacity. We on the Worship Team hope that trend continues. It's a fine time to incorporate new folks into the services, and we hope you have noticed several new faces up front in the last few months. We're hoping some will become "regulars" and even take on the role of Worship Associate. We're looking at ways to become more flexible in expectations and time commitment to include those who might not have considered it previously.

We love hearing from you! What do you need? What would you like more of, or less? Would you like to contribute a reading, or a piece of art relevant to a particular topic? As we settle into our new home, it's a good time to experiment a bit, and we hope you will be a part of the process.

- Cheryl & Carol

Stewardship Team

imagine...

The Numbers Keep Climbing!

By Ellen Goodwin, Stewardship Team Member

Thanks to your generosity, we met the ambitious goals for both our capital campaign and our annual pledge drive. This means we will begin life at our new Squirrel Creek home on a solid financial footing.

HERE ARE THE NUMBERS AS OF MAY:

- Annual pledge drive: \$301,205
- Three-year capital campaign: \$1,420,498

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](#). Because the capital campaign will continue for three years, you can make contributions at any time.

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



Treasurer

Gail Schulz, Treasurer
UUCM Board of Trustees
Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org

A Year-end Note from the Treasurer

As we approach the June 30 end to our current budget year, please remember to try to complete payment on your fiscal year 2025-26 pledges by that date. We are entering a new world of budgeting for our first year at our new church home, and it would really help us, as we develop the budget that starts July 1, if as many pledge payments for the current fiscal year as possible were complete. If you need to know how much is remaining on your pledge, please contact me at Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org.

And, for those of you with receipts for reimbursement, please submit those promptly as well. And thank you for your continued support for our community!

- Gail Schulz



Membership

Laura Harter
Chair, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

I feel ready to move into Squirrel Creek and for the “dust to settle.” But I’m distracted by today’s pressing question: When will the dust be vacuumed and who is going to do it? Joking aside, I’m ready for a comfortable routine of “wash, rinse, repeat” in our new home. How fitting that our commercial sanitizer runs a cycle of dishes in just 90 seconds.

There’s plenty of preparation behind the scenes for June 7 and beyond. The Greeters are discussing how the new site changes how they’ll greet – it’s the same and different! A special hospitality crew is preparing a catered celebration for our opening day. Ruth Edwards and Rev. Kevin are scheduling the next Starting Point series to start early this summer. The Hospitality Team rolled out a new and more organized plan for our Sunday refreshments starting June 14. We hope you’ll embrace finding a way to participate. A link to the Sign-up Sheet is here: [Hospitality Sign-up](#)

We’ll be ready for June 7, and we are prepared to fine tune as we go for weeks after. There will be plenty of opportunities for all of us to lean in and offer support! We trust you’ll find ways to join us in the kitchen, or help greet or usher, or count collections. We believe you will find laughter and new connections along the way.

Please reach out if you have questions about how to get more involved and connected, and feedback is always welcomed.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Laura

P.S. – Check out the article by Viv Tipton in the new Hospitality Column. She is one of the members of the Hospitality Team. The team is Ellen Goodwin, Leslie King, Tracy Pepper, Viv Tipton, Joyce Wilson, and me. We’ll take turns sharing our perspectives on Hospitality in upcoming articles in the Mountain Chalice.

Learn more at hospitality@uugrassvalley.org

MEMBERSHIP TEAM:

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

Hospitality Team

Finding my Fit

By Viv Tipton

I joined UUCM last year. It has been a year of discovery. At first, I was overwhelmed with a myriad of activities and opportunities. Feeling like a kid in a candy store, I gobbled up all the treats I was receiving. Warm welcomes, invitations for writing, walking, and discussion groups. Sunday services that left me reflective and inspired. It was as if I had discovered a home that had been patiently waiting to welcome me.

I savored the gifts that came my way and found myself struggling to find a way to be of service to this new-to-me community.

I was scared. I was not sure how I fit in. How might I care for and support these folks who welcomed everyone? I worried, will I do “it” right? Whatever “it” might be.

I decided to check out hospitality; the kitchen, the hub of loving families. Having spent a big part of my early career working in kitchens, and coming from a big family, I had seen over my life, how food and drink bring people together. I was nervous, but I knew it was a place to start. I reached out to Laura, and she paired me with a trainer. Lin St. Jacques was marvelous. She walked me through everything I needed to know. How to set up the coffee pots, how to find tablecloths and along the way we forged a connection. Another new friend at UUCM.

It took just a few Sunday mornings to notice a shift in my comfort level. I was no longer worried about getting “it” right as I moved about my tasks. I was part of a team; I could not possibly get it wrong. I had found my fit. As folks stopped by to drop off a snack or grab a cup of coffee, I experienced the magic of new friendships blooming from brief exchanges of pleasantries. I noticed how everyone has a part in our kitchen. Whether you bring treats, set up before service, monitor the coffee so it never runs dry, or clean up. It is the work and the efforts of many that bring our kitchen to life.

When the winds of change started blowing, I practiced patience as we added a service, a move, and a new kitchen to learn. Even with so many changes, so many decisions to make, and so much to be done, what remains true is that whether it is a cup of coffee, a treat, or a connection, there is something for everyone in the kitchen.

Viv Tipton at hospitality@uugrassvalley.org



A &A Team

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



Parish Care

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

First Exhibit in our New Campus!

I hope everyone took advantage of the opportunity to see Jeff Gold's architectural drawings while they were displayed at our Church Street home. It was one of our more unique shows and one that made quite an impression. Thank you, Jeff, for being our very last exhibitor in the old digs!

This coming exhibition will be a whole new chapter in art shows at UUCM. We are honored to be sharing the bright, bold works of Yvonne Bartlett in the music room of our new church home. **Yvonne's official reception will be after the service on June 14.** Please come by, talk to the artist herself, and enjoy the new venue.

Meet Yvonne Bartlett

Yvonne Bartlett is a retired consultant spanning over 30 years of leadership training to schools, non-profits, and business organizations. In addition, she served 13 years as a trustee for the Grass Valley School District, counselor at Downieville School, and program director for Senior Project at Nevada Union High School as well as NCCLI (Nevada County Community Leadership Institute).



Yvonne began her fine arts endeavors in her sixties. She is eclectic and intuitive in her work, enjoying collage, acrylic, watercolor, block printing and pen and ink embellished with vibrant, whimsical color. Hints of realism can be seen in her passion for the abstract."



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

The Caboose – A True Story

A Special Feature by Jennifer Dewey

She was eight years old, shy and small for her age. She was eight in the third grade because her birthday was in October and she wouldn't be nine until then. It wasn't so bad to be an eight-year-old when all the other kids were nine. She didn't mind. She was happy about it.

Happy was not how she felt at the beginning when the end-of-the-year play was planned and kids were given parts. She could only think how she was picked last for softball because she couldn't hit the ball with the bat, even though she tried and tried. The teacher chose a story about a train trying with all its might to get up and over a hill. The teacher lined the kids up and selected the players. She pointed her finger at each kid and said what part the kid would be in the play. The teacher pointed at her and said, "You will be the coal car. You'll have a shovel and you'll use it to pretend you're tossing coal."

She asked her dad what a coal car was and he told her and he said, "Good for you! Your teacher gave you an important role." In her dreams about the play, she fell off the coal car. A boy conked out because she dropped the shovel on his head.

Shyness got hold of her. She got wrong answers on tests. The other kids noticed how she hung back on the playground.

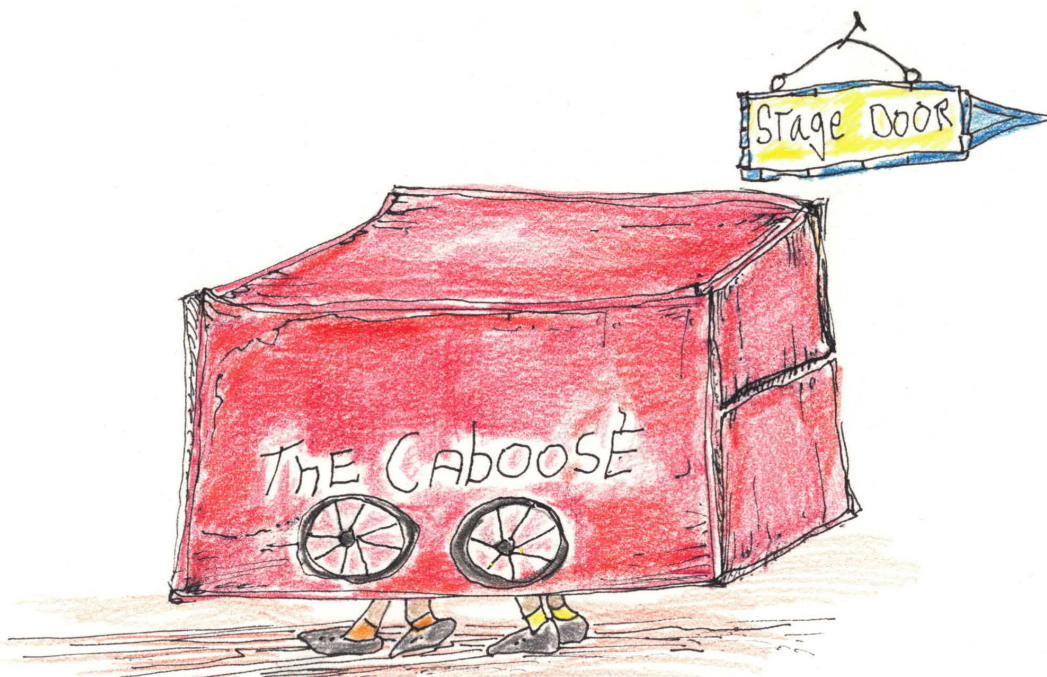
The end of the year loomed. The kids practiced their parts and, in every rehearsal, she made mistakes.

Her two best friends knew she didn't want to be the coal car. They were sure she didn't even want to be in the play. One day at recess they told her they had an idea. "I'm in the pretend caboose," Anne said. "It's made from a big cardboard box." "Me too," Martha said. "Two kids have to be in the pretend caboose." "Let's switch places," Anne said. "I'd rather be in the coal car." So, they switched.

The teacher said, "I understand and I don't mind." Her dad said, "It's fine with me," and gave her a hug. Her bad dreams stopped. She raised her hand in school and answered questions. She helped paint the big pretend cardboard caboose red.

"This is a wonderful solution," her mom said. Her mom understood because she was shy, too. "This is an example of kids working together to solve a problem. I'm proud of all three of you."

The time came around for the play and she was ready. She was happy, too, because carrying the big box caboose meant the audience only saw her feet. She wore her special dress-up socks.



BENDING THE ARC TASK FORCE

Postcards Defend the Right to Vote

Ready to Postcard for the Midterms? This is the big time! We are going directly to the General Elections in North Carolina and Georgia. Here's the plan:

JUNE 14 – JULY 13 (4 WEEKS):

Write to Black voters in North Carolina

JULY 10 – OCT 13 (13 WEEKS):

Write to Black voters in Georgia

Why North Carolina? The turnout of North Carolina Black voters has declined in 2020 and 2024. Personal contact with the voters makes a big difference in getting out the vote in the state. Our handwritten postcards do that.

Our regional coordinator Celine Pankratius offers these words: "We have all heard that the Louisiana v. Callais decision has dramatically weakened the Voting Rights Act (VRA). SCOTUS has handed Republicans the vehicle they needed to redistrict their states based on partisan lines. This obliterates the fair representation of voters of color and the purpose of the VRA, primarily in red states like North Carolina.

Past efforts have proven that if 20% of the district voters are voters of color, that is a winnable district. CFCG strategy has identified 23 districts in North Carolina that are in majority Black communities, where a white Republican is sitting in that seat, and we are coming for them."

Why Georgia? Races in all states are consequential now, but Jon Ossoff's Senate seat would be a big loss. Georgia Republicans are furiously trying to redistrict all their Black majority districts out of existence, as are all the other red states. Supporting fair elections makes it particularly important to get out the Black vote in Georgia. That is why we are dedicating so many weeks of postcard writing there.



How to get involved: UUCM volunteers will make postcard packets with everything you need to participate. Each packet will have 20 postcards, stamps, addresses, and info stickers, as well as scripts, samples, instructions, etc. Each packet costs UUCM \$13.00 to assemble. Writers are asked to reimburse us the \$13. Some folks want to support the campaign but don't want to write. They donate funds to cover the cost of the packets for those who can't.

TIME TO ORDER YOUR PACKETS!

Please email to gailjv@uugrassvalley.org How many packets do you want for North Carolina? (4 weeks to write) How many packets do you want for Georgia? (13 weeks to write)

Postcard writing parties begin June 15 and continue each Monday (drop in 9:00 AM until noon) – drop in to our new church home at 12582 Squirrel Creek Road, Grass Valley. Feel free to have your own postcard parties or write solo. Every postcard makes a difference!

Questions? Email gailjv@uugrassvalley.org

NISEAN NEWS

Book Launch: "What Came West"

By Eileen Hale



"What Came West"
A Novel by Josh Weil
Sunday, May 31, 5:00 -7:00 PM
at 'Uba Seo,
225 Broad St, Nevada City

Josh Weil wrote his novel What Came West in close consultation with Nisenan Tribal Spokesperson Shelly Covert. The novel explores the Sierra Nevada at the cusp of the gold rush; the book launch will include a book talk and conversation with Shelly Covert and Josh Weil, offering insight into the research, relationships, and responsibilities behind telling stories of this Land.

HUŚWEJ

The Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe is introducing HUŚWEJ as the new name of their nonprofit organization. (The name of the tribe has not changed, and the name of their gallery, 'Uba Seo, is still the same.) Here's what they say about it:

"California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project – the Tribally-guided nonprofit you've supported as CHIRP – is now publicly known as HUŚWEJ (pronounced HOOSH-way), a Nisenan word meaning 'wish.'" "CHIRP began as a research

Justice News and Activities

initiative, and while archival work and historic research remain foundational to our mission, over time the scope of our work has expanded significantly. Today, our Tribally guided nonprofit advances land “rematriation,” Cultural revitalization, Tribal Youth and Community Wellness programming, tribally led land stewardship, archival preservation, public education, and visibility through art. We have grown beyond the boundaries of what the title “research project” can hold. This transition is also part of a broader commitment to language revitalization and Indigenous self-determination. Centering a Nisenan word in our public identity is not symbolic – it is intentional. It affirms that Nisenan language, worldview, and sovereignty are alive and present. HUSWEJ embodies the collective hopes, dreams, and responsibilities of the Nisenan People – rooted in cultural continuity, stewardship of ancestral homelands, and the enduring presence and visibility of the NisenanTribe.” [Note that there is no change to nonprofit status, EIN or organizational structure, and while the website and email domain is now huswej.org ; chirpca.org will redirect to the new website (which looks beautiful!). See their website at www.huswej.org .]

This is just part of their news. There’s more I couldn’t include here, such as a beautiful sculptural archway on the Wildflower Ridge Preserve and murals in the larger area.



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 preferred.*

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

Please leave donations in the designated bin at UUCM.

Thank you for your generosity, Laurie Bell



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

Share the Plate

UUCM’s April *Share the Plate* partner, Nevada County Immigration Rights Network will receive \$1,155.90, 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 May partner, Interfaith Food Ministry.



Our June *Share the Plate* partner is Color Me Human. They work to dismantle systems of oppression within themselves and within Nevada County’s institutions..

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

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

Starting on June 8, all team and group meetings will be held at Squirrel Creek. Room assignments for teams and groups will be available by contacting Admin@uugrassvalley.org or calling the UUCM Office.

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

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- SQUIRREL CREEK!

Our next meeting is Monday, June 8 at 6:00 PM.

This month will be our first month at our new location on Squirrel Creek Road. I talked to Laura Harter and she says we should be able to have a potluck in the Social Hall. Then we can explore our new space, and if we have any trained kitchen team members at the potluck, we can get a tutorial on using the sanitizer to wash dishes!! Look for updates and RSVP through the women's group email list.

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



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.*



ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE
EVERY FRIDAY, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
AT UUCM - SQUIRREL CREEK RD.
ROOM TBD
arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org

Come and meet with other UUs on EVERY FRIDAY 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. *If no one shows up by 1:15, admin will assume group is cancelled, lock the doors and go home for lunch.*

Courageous Curiosity: Deep Dialogue Across Differences

Curious about how to have a meaningful conversation across differences? Over a year ago, Rev. Kevin brought Rev. Cat Cox to UUCM to do a workshop on Deep Dialogue Across Differences. Rev. Cat, or Cat as she invites us to call her, is a UU minister who offers spiritual guidance and training in the skills of Deep Dialogue Across Differences, including practices for deep listening, conflict resolution, and collaborative decision-making for both individuals and groups. Many of us attended that workshop. Soon after, Rev. Kevin invited any who attended to take our learning deeper and join him in a study group to that end.

About a dozen of us have been meeting monthly, including three new people since February 2026. We are learning more about ourselves as we work to internalize the skills and apply them across political divides, and in our everyday lives with friends, family, and more distant local encounters. Cat tells us that all human behavior is driven by universal human needs, like autonomy, a sense of belonging, connection, contribution, creativity, meaning, mutual care, peace, play, safety, support, trust, and well-being. Those needs drive our actions and behaviors. All actions are strategies to meet needs and fulfill values. Our strategies are based on stories which are our interpretations about what's happening. These stories are based on our beliefs plus our entire life experience - and so are the stories of those on the other side of the conflict. Our stories can often be wrong and can always be questioned.

All conflict is at the level of strategies. Our strategies often arise instantaneously and are based on stories about the "why" of the other person's behavior (He's thinks I'm really stupid, or she'll do anything to be in control, or they think they're too good to lift a hand to help...)

Cat suggests we begin with the deep inner work of self-connection. We need to ask what story we are telling ourselves about the situation we're in, or that our family is in, or our community. These stories stem from a survival storybook we have been developing for years and likely inherited from our parents and other ancestors. Cat invites us to witness that story, question it, and check into the feelings that the situation brings up: anger, defensiveness, fear, joy, hope?

And finally, she suggests we go back to our needs and values and ask ourselves: in this situation, which of my needs would an acceptable solution have to satisfy? Which of my values would it have to fulfill? What do I need most to find resolution? That self-connection skill will lead us into the next skills of the inner work of finding empathy, listening, and offering empathy, self-expression, and discovering solutions benefiting everyone. Ideally, solutions will emerge from recognizing and responding to not only our own needs but also to our mutual needs.

The above was condensed from the May 10 service, which you can see online at [MAY 10 DEEP DIALOGUE SERVICE](#).

We plan to bring Cat back in the fall. You can reach Cat directly at [PATH OF JOY](#).



And you can talk to any of the **Deep Dialogue Group Members**: Yvonne Bartlett, Marlene Bottenfield, Sue Gregory, Scottie Hart, Laura Harter, Annie Haymaker, Jax, Gail Johnson Vaughan, Maureen McNair, Tracy Pepper, Reine Thibault, Joyce Wilson.

Here is an excerpt from Rev. Cat Cox's website:

DEEP DIALOGUE ACROSS DIFFERENCES

Conflict is a knot at the center of almost every human dilemma. All conflicts share the same core challenge: finding a way to move forward that is whole-hearted and inclusive. Rev. Cat has over 20 years training and experience in supporting individuals and groups in resolving conflict in ways that truly benefit everyone, leading to solutions everyone can support. This shift happens through a deep dive into seeing, holding and honoring all the core needs of every stakeholder (including the sometimes "warring" parts of ourselves!). This freeing and life-changing approach to problem-solving is grounded in the deeply spiritual AND highly pragmatic approach of Non-Violent Communication and also goes beyond it. By setting aside differences in "what to do next" and focusing on the "why" and "what really matters," individuals can clarify their vision, couples can renew their bond, and communities can shift into a culture of mutual cooperation, renewed trust and productive action.

Community Connections

PLEASE NOTE: Starting on June 8, all team and group meetings will be held at Squirrel Creek. Room assignments for teams and groups will be available by contacting Admin@uugrassvalley.org or calling the UUCM Office.



HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM

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

SESSION 5 – HUMANISM, JUSTICE, AND THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

Purpose: To connect humanist ethics with UU commitments to justice and equality.

HERE'S A BRIEF ARTICLE DISCUSSING THE TOPIC:

[Humanist Ethics and Unitarian Universalist Justice](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is justice a moral obligation or a spiritual calling?
2. How does humanism inform UU justice work?

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 Book Group

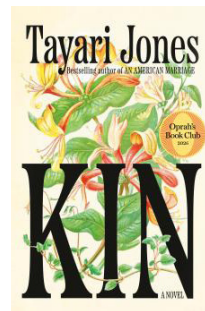
THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 PM

AT UUCM - SQUIRREL CREEK

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:



June 23

"Kin" by Tayari Jones

It follows the lives of two motherless friends in Jim Crow South.

TIME TO PICK NEW BOOKS!

Please bring your recommendations for fiction or non-fiction books you would like to discuss beginning in July. I always like to hear a little about the book, how many pages long it is, what formats it's available in, and if any copies are available through the Nevada County Library system.

Our June meeting will be at the UUCM campus at 12582 Squirrel Creek Rd, Grass Valley, CA 95945. We will most likely meet in the Squirrel Creek Conference room in the Admin wing.

[Tuesday Book Group Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 927 1111 8322

Passcode: 472984

Please give at least one week's notice to attend by Zoom so we can set up the equipment..



A Farewell Reflection

By Cheryl Spaulding, Family Ministry Team Member

It is with a touch of sadness that I approach the writing of this month's Family Ministry contribution to the Mountain Chalice, as it is the last one that I will write. At the end of June, as UUCM transitions to a new church year, I will be stepping down as the co-leader of Family Ministry. So, I want to make this final contribution a thoughtful one.

With that goal in mind, I have decided to focus on my thoughts about what and how young children learn in a program like the one that has evolved here over the last three years. I've been working with Lindsay and our team of volunteers, including Linda, Corrie, Jenny, Rachel (Goodrich), and Shannon. The program that unfolds upstairs each Sunday morning during Kids' Connection is very non-directive. We have created a rich and stimulating environment where the children can make choices about whether and how to work and play together.

I want to share with you one recent example of how this environment leads to children's growth and development. I must confess I did not witness this event, but I did experience it second hand when Linda Siska shared it with me. I immediately recognized it as an example of how what we have so intentionally created for the children allows them to gradually build their understandings about what it means to be Unitarian Universalist.

One day, when we had an especially full list of activities planned related to learning about our upcoming move, I made an in-the-moment decision to skip over our joys and sorrows ritual. After we left our little sanctuary room and proceeded to our larger rooms for play and work, one of our three-year-old boys chose to help us pack boxes full of toys and books. Each box that he packed, he delivered to the growing pile of boxes

in our little sanctuary. Upon delivering the first box, with Linda Siska by his side, he told her that we failed to put the stones in the water and he wanted to do that right there with Linda, because he had "three chalices." What he meant by "three chalices" was he had three things to share in the way of joys and sorrows. I was charmed by this story. Children's "linguistic errors" are not errors at all. They are evidence of active, hypothesis-testing minds hard at work making sense of their experiences in complex environments. This scenario showed me several things about this boy's emerging understanding about Unitarian Universalism.



First, he understands that we share our lives with each other, especially the ups and downs. Indeed, he not only understands this fact; he has already developed an appreciation for this way we have of being with each other. He had been looking forward to the ritual, and when it was not available to him, he missed it and took an opportunity to re-engage with it. Second, he is beginning to take on the specific language that UUs use to describe our religious practices. He knew that "chalice" was an important word for us. He knew it was a central feature in an important ritual that recurred each week as we came together upstairs. He had a linguistic hypothesis about which ritual involved the word chalice and how to use the word to characterize that ritual. At this point his hypothesis is not accurate, but there is no

need to correct him. He will continue to "collect linguistic data" as he has more opportunities to participate in chalice lightings and to share his joys and sorrows. Gradually, he will shift his understanding of the word chalice and the ritual associated with it. Eventually, much later, he will arrive at a full understanding of what a chalice is and why it is a symbol of Unitarian Universalism. These are the moments from our Kids' Connection program that I will treasure as I step away from regular participation in it. The last three years have been a joyful time of transformation for me. I deeply appreciate the opportunity that UUCM gave me to grow and connect through my service with the Family Ministry team.

-Cheryl



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

12582 Squirrel Creek Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: uugrassvalley.org



MOST UPDATED VERSION OF THE UUCM CALENDAR:

<https://www.uugrassvalley.org/calendar/>



Sunday Service, both onsite and via Zoom are at 10:00 AM.

Kids' Connection is also held at 10:00 AM

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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