



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

# the Bridge



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## Can You ‘Smell the Barn?’

"Smell the barn" is an idiom meaning to feel renewed energy, speed, or anticipation as one nears the end of a task or journey. It typically refers to horses, which often pick up speed when they know they are returning to their stable, and commonly used when someone is excited to finish a project and the end is in sight. The phrase is rooted in farming, where livestock becomes eager and faster when they are close to home.

There is a heightened anticipation and renewed energy at Church Street as we near the finish line. All hands on deck!

Check out our [Volunteer Corner](#) for many ways to help with this final push!

In this issue, we have a [photo array](#) of some of the volunteers, a [list of important dates](#), and [good news](#) from our Facilities Preparation Committee.

As always, send in your ideas, suggestions, questions to [TheBridge@UUGrassValley.org](mailto:TheBridge@UUGrassValley.org) - we look forward to hearing from YOU!

# Photo Album



Are you sure this is in the President's job description?



Scrub-a dub-dub



You want me to go WHERE?



Chair Repair



Fire Safe



Checkin' outlets



## Volunteer Corner

**We are on the home stretch!  
Only 23 days until THE MOVE!**

**VOLUNTEER !**



### Mark your calendars or just show up!

Monday, May 11, 11:00am–2:00pm

Thursday, May 14, 12:00–4:00pm

Monday, May 18, 1:00–4:00 pm

(more dates to be announced)

If you have them, please bring: rubber gloves,  
bucket, large sponge, screwdrivers.

Our Cleaning Crews have cleaned and scrubbed so much already! Don't miss out on your last opportunities to participate. Come help get our new home ready for furniture on Moving Day and our first service on June 7.

There's a task for all abilities, skills, and comfort levels. YOU CHOOSE what projects to work on. Some examples:

- cleaning light fixtures, inside and out
- washing windows, inside and out
- reinstall switch plates and vent covers
- vacuuming

Bathrooms are done!

**Questions? Contact Laurie at [Volunteer@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Volunteer@uugrassvalley.org)**



### What's Cooking in the Kitchen?

Our stove and dish sanitizer are tuned up and ready! Both require training to operate and are very simple to use.

- Wash dishes with the sanitizer. Fast and Fun!  
*Thursday, May 14, 1:00pm to 3:00pm*
- Kitchen Tour – See the sanitizer and fire up the stove!  
*Thursday, May 21, 1:00pm to 3:00pm*
- Pack Church Street's coffee pots and final kitchen stuff  
*Monday, June 1, 10:00 am*
- Unpack  
*Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00am to noon*
- Fine tuning anyone?  
*Thursday, June 4, 1:00pm to 3:00pm*

The kitchen is clean with much appreciation to Michael Bankston, Cynthia Burton, Shannon Dooley-Miller, Janet Dunstan, Paul Ellias, Nancy Finlay, Ellen Goodwin, Sue Gregory, Maryann Hart, Kern Hildebrand, Zander Karim, Pam Kisor, Carol Kuczora, Leslie King, Tracy Pepper, Tamar Shadeau, Viv Tipton, Julia Park-Tracy, and Joyce Wilson for their time, generosity, and elbow grease! They set the stage and initiated our kitchen with love.

**RSVP at [hospitality@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:hospitality@uugrassvalley.org)**

# Volunteer Corner

More opportunities.....



## Moving-in

**We need YOUR hands, hearts, and a few strong backs!**

**Thursday, May 21 from 10:00am to noon**

Join us at 12582 Squirrel Creek Road on to move chairs into the sanctuary and tackle some "easier lift" tasks as we get our beautiful new home ready for worship. Can't move chairs? We will be serving pizza at noon need volunteers to pick up, set up, and clean up. Your morning work will quite literally set the stage as later that same day at 3pm, we'll hold our first test run for Sunday Services, complete with Zoom, audio, and video.



**Saturday, May 23 from 8:00 to 11:00am**, we're calling all strong bodies and anyone with a pickup truck to help us move boxes from South Church Street to Squirrel Creek— this is the big moment we've been working toward and yes, we will provide sustenance to fuel our efforts! Please sign-up using the volunteer email link above or below so we can reserve your slice. We will also need volunteers to help set-up and clean-up after lunch. Just use the same volunteer email.

Every hand that helps is a hand that helps build community, and there's no better way to make this new space truly ours than by pouring a little sweat and joy into it together. Stay tuned for even more ways to be part of this exciting chapter – because the best is absolutely yet to come!

**[Volunteer@ugrassvalley.org](mailto:Volunteer@ugrassvalley.org)**



## Squirrel Creek Land Crew!

**Tuesdays, May 12, 19, 26 @ 9:00am**

Want to join the fun at Squirrel Creek? Get your hands (or gloves) dirty with the Land Crew at Squirrel Creek **every Tuesday in May at 9:00am**

If you're able to join us, please bring loppers, clippers, wheelbarrows, your visions and ideas. We'll bring a gas-powered pole saw and wheelbarrow. Just about everything else we might need will be there.

Come be part of the team!

**Questions? See Marlene or Cliff Bottenfield or email [LandCrew@ugrassvalley.org](mailto:LandCrew@ugrassvalley.org).**

## News from the FPC (Facilities Preparation Committee)

Things are happening at breakneck speed – so much so that we're having to plan carefully to avoid having workers, both church and contractor, trip over each other.

Perhaps the most significant of these is the new floor, which has begun being installed this week, and will hopefully be done by the 15th, though a couple of extra days may be required. It looks wonderful, and the places where it is mostly completed are so much brighter and lively. (Just a reminder – much of where the floor work is being done is off-limits, so if you are there, be very aware of taped off areas.)

We love our new building, and want to protect it, so it's good to know that the fire alarm system is up and running. The intruder alarm system is very close to being so as well.

Work continues on the AV systems. The speakers are in place, though only held up with ropes and pulleys at the moment! They sound good, but there is an electrical hum that will certainly be resolved by June 7! And the plans for mounting the monitors are proceeding, with the bracketing being built. There will be a dry-run for the entire AV system, including Zoom, on 5/21. Everybody keep a good thought in mind that day!

The upgrades to the HVAC (heating, ventilating, and air conditioning) will start on Tuesday, the 12th, and are expected to be done by the 21st. We are really looking forward to having a comfortable place for service!

Do you want to live with old dust and dirt? Nope, neither do we. So next week cleaners will be shampooing the carpet in the sanctuary, as well as the upholstery on both the red chairs from Church Street and the blue chairs that we got with Squirrel Creek.

Speaking of the blue chairs, repairs on them have finished, and we were able to save all but seven of them. What we will have in the sanctuary for the foreseeable future is a mix of the red and blue chairs. Just how to integrate them is still being discussed.

The kitchen is approaching full functionality. The dish sanitizer is now operational and could be used by itself, but we are also looking into acquiring a conventional dishwasher. Since there is no place for a built-in dishwasher at the moment, we are considering a roll-around.

The old blinds were in generally poor condition, and they are being replaced. This may happen in a phased manner; we will know more about this as cost estimates come in. The decision has been made to go with honeycomb style blinds rather than horizontal slats, largely because they are much easier to keep clean.

There used to be chains blocking the parking lot. They seemed like a nuisance and were taken down, but some of the local yahoos have taken this as an opportunity to drive into our parking lot and have the zoomies, so the chains will be replaced.

The grounds crew has been busy, busy, busy! The primary goal has been and will continue to be fire safety. Bushes and trees close to the buildings have been removed, and larger hazardous trees nearby have been scheduled for removal. We want to be green, but fire safety is the first priority.

## Upcoming Dates

*(subject to change)*

- May 12: *Carpet and chair cleaning, **Land Crew***
- May 14: **Cleaning Crew**
- May 18: *Flooring and electrical work complete*
- May 19: **Land Crew**
- May 21: **Move chairs into sanctuary** (10-12 and pizza!),  
*AV test run in sanctuary (3:00)*
- May 23 & 25: **Moving boxes from CS to SC Social Hall**
- May 26: **Land Crew**
- May 27: *AV test run in sanctuary (3:00)*
- May 29 & 30: **Moving boxes from CS to SC Social Hall**
- May 31: **Last Sunday Service at Church Street**
- June 1: *Pianos moved to Squirrel Creek*
- June 2: *Furniture moved, **Land Crew***
- June 3, 4, 5: **Move boxes from Social Hall to rooms**
- June 6: **Final clean-up & prepare space for Sunday**
- June 7: **First Sunday Service at Squirrel Creek!!**

KEY: **volunteers needed** *professionals or assigned teams*

### Opportunity to Carpool

Ruth Edwards is proposing starting a group to carpool from Church St to Squirrel Creek for those that used to walk or need a ride.

Contact Ruth at:  
[ruthjoedwards@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthjoedwards@hotmail.com)



[Send your suggestions NOW!](#)

[Questions? What would you like to know?](#)



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