

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

July 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.*

**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 •••

### SUMMER THEME: GROWING BELOVED COMMUNITY

**July 5** **Born and Reborn Again: us at 250**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Gail Johnson Vaughan,  
Worship Associate

*You want to feel celebratory about this year's 250th anniversary of the nation's founding, a founding nurtured by the ideas, values and writings of our religious ancestors, but it can be difficult to scrape up enthusiasm when the nation's shortcomings are apparent and when so much that we value is in such deep jeopardy. You are invited to this birthday party both to celebrate and to be real.*

**July 12** **Sustaining the Cacophony of Democracy**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Gail Johnson Vaughan,  
Worship Associate

*Rooted in faith in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, Unitarian Universalists have long affirmed explicitly the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. However, as Molly Ivins put it, "Democracy requires . . . a large tolerance for confusion and a secret relish for dissent." Sigh. This Sunday we celebrate not only our aspiration but also our promise to give everyone a voice.*

**July 19** **Palate Cleanser: Poetry**  
**and other words for these times**  
Beth Karow

*Recently, we sang "in these hard times there will always be singing." Truly, in these hard times there will be all kinds of art,*

*including poetry. Hearing poems read out loud helps us to slow down our endlessly active brains, as we are invited to take them in – not for the utilitarian purpose of gaining knowledge or information– but for the gentle yet profound way they invite us to recognize beauty, access our hearts, breathe more slowly and deeply, and use our imaginations. Today, we pause together to listen to wise and whimsical words intended to feed our spirits and nourish our souls.*

**July 26** **Ready, Weary, Wise: Social Change, Joy, Justice, Connection, and us**  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Lindsay Duncel,  
Worship Associate

*Commitment to social change runs deep in our religious tradition, an expression of our foundational values. Drawing on her experiences working in Asian-American, South Asian, Muslim, and Arab communities, Deepa Iyer teaches that "being part of social change efforts is one of the most important ways we can connect with each other at a time when society insists upon compartmentalizing us into silos of identity..." Connection is the key, Iyer says.*

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa  
UUCM Minister

## From the Minister

### MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS



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

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

### July 2026

When people from the wider community ask how UUCM's move to Squirrel Creek Road is feeling, I often share how good it feels to be able to stretch out and to have more breathing room. I also share that the energy level these first few Sundays has been remarkably high. Like items that have been squeezed into small spaces for a long while, UUCM is unfolding little by little after the extraordinary effort to move in May and early June. The place and the community both feel expansive to me, resonant with possibility, as well as very alive in the present.

With this in mind and heart, "Growing Beloved Community" is our overall theme this summer. "Growing" here applies not merely to the UUCM's ability to welcome more of the people who are seeking such a community, but also to the community's substance, its spiritual, emotional, and intellectual depth and strength, its compassion, its vision, and its resilience.

We'll be exploring and celebrating Unitarian Universalism's roots as well as its wings, and we'll frame the idea of Beloved Community in both wide and close-in terms. Who do we mean when we say "us"? Plus, of course, we'll take time to breathe, simply to be. The spaces are as important to growth as any of the reaching.



All of this unfolds in community alongside and in conversation with the daily living of our lives, the relationships and surprises and challenges of our very personal circles, the perpetual series of "unprecedenteds" at the national level, and our ever more vital searches for human and spiritual meaning.

Welcome to the work, the excitement, the frustration, the challenge, the joy, and the transformative power of Beloved Community.

(P.S. for long time readers: July 19 is national ice-cream day this year. Really.)

With care,

- Rev. Kevin



Carol Richey, President,  
UUCM Board of Trustees  
[President@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:President@uugrassvalley.org)

## Board of Trustees



### Joyful Community

We have held two Sunday services in our new church home as I write this, and they were Oh! So! Joyful! The joy of curiosity – what is this new campus like, will people find us, what will services be like? The joy of having more space – the space to gather, to be together, to grow, to explore. The joy of choice – will I find inspiration, a place to belong, respite from challenges of daily life, ways to be involved? The joy of giving – a recognition of the abundance of time, talent, and treasure given freely to realize a shared goal. It is a wonderful feeling to be part of a community so committed to creating a world that we want to be part of. As the moving boxes are unpacked and the dust of remodeling and cleaning settle down, we are making the space our own, living in it and imagining how we can make it better. I'm appreciative of the grace people have shown for the current imperfections and disruptions, showing patience and understanding that we will be here for a long time and problems will be resolved, answers will become apparent, all in due time. I'm also appreciative of the people working quietly on their own to adopt an area to beautify or tend to as if the facility were their own, demonstrating the value of generosity and spreading more joy!

The Board approved the charter for an ad hoc committee, Facilities Prioritization, known as FPC2, to continue the work of carefully using the funds remaining from the capital campaign. Gail Schulz and Jeff Gold will lead the team and add people representing the various program needs of UUCM. The Board has also agreed that we can be ready to hold the delayed annual Community Business Meeting on Sunday, August 30, at 12:30 PM in the Social Hall after the 10:00 AM service. At this meeting, the membership will approve the annual budget and elect candidates for the Nominating Committee and the Board of Trustees. Thanks to good work by the Nominating Committee, all open positions have candidates.

Feeling grateful for this community, I share the following quote from Jean Vanier, philosopher and humanist:

*“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn’t as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing.”*

And, I will add, **Find JOY!**

*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](mailto:Worship@uugrassvalley.org)



This is Cheryl, and this is the last column I will be writing, at least for now. I am stepping away from the Worship Team for a combination of reasons, and I have been reflecting on what the experience has meant to me.

I discovered UUCM during the pandemic, attending services and participating in Starting Point on Zoom. I joined in 2021, and by the time in-person services resumed I was a member of the Worship Team. My intention was to be a helper to the “real” team members; I never anticipated becoming a Worship Associate. Nothing in my background or personality prepared me for such a role, but one thing led to another, and pretty soon, there I was, up front with Rev. Kevin. I could have said no, but I didn’t.

I have grown tremendously from this experience. I still enjoy the research and writing that goes into a service more than presenting it, though everyone has been so supportive and encouraging that speaking in front of people has become more comfortable. Working with creative and fun people, including of course Rev. Kevin, has sparked learning, personal growth, and moments of joy.

I remember sensing that I was coming in at a time of transition, and that somehow made it easier. Established routines, roles, and expectations had been disrupted by the pandemic, and something new was emerging. Joining the team as a newbie gave me an immediate sense of belonging and a job to do.

We are in a similar time now. I hope that the move has shaken things loose enough, and engaged people in different ways enough, that someone who might never have considered being on the Worship Team will find it intriguing. Whether you are brand new or a long-time member, it’s well worth exploring. Speak to any team member or Rev. Kevin and you’ll be invited to visit a meeting, participate in services, shadow a team member, and see whether it’s a good fit for you. Even if you decide it’s not, I think you’ll find getting an inside look at how services are crafted will leave you with a deeper appreciation of the experience we share each Sunday morning.

It has been an honor to serve as a Worship Associate. For now, I am looking forward to being in the congregation as our services continue to evolve in our new space.

- Cheryl & Carol



## Treasurer

Gail Schulz, Treasurer  
UUCM Board of Trustees  
[Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org)

### Update on our Capital Campaign

We have moved into our new home, but the work will continue as we improve and maintain the campus. We have spent almost \$300,000 on a host of needed improvements, including a new roof and gutters, flooring, painting, and many smaller repairs.

We have also set aside money to cover the increase in our annual operating budget now that we have a larger facility. We expect that our growing congregation—as well as other sources of income—will gradually cover the increased costs.

Fortunately, our UUCM community really stepped up with our Capital Campaign pledges, and many of you have already made significant payments on these pledges. Thank you!

As you may recall, we asked people to please indicate what they plan to pay during each of the three years of the campaign. Based on the information you gave us, your finance team has determined that there is about \$100,000 yet to be given during the current first year of the campaign. In order to plan ahead and continue with improvements, we need you, if you are able, to make some of these pledge payments as soon as feasible. Your response will determine which of the significant needs we can address and when that can be done.

Your continued generosity makes your finance team humble! As usual, please send comments and questions to me at: [Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Treasurer@uugrassvalley.org).

- Gail Schulz  
Treasurer and Campaign Co-Chair



## A & A Team

Linda Siska, Leader,  
Art & Aesthetics Team  
[art@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:art@uugrassvalley.org)



## Parish Care

Gwen Eymann  
Coordinator, UUCM Parish Care  
[Caring@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Caring@uugrassvalley.org)

## First Exhibit Continues...

This exhibition began 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. 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.

Yvonne's displayed artwork is for sale and she will donate 10% of any proceeds to UUCM. She also has more to show! She intends to hang up new pieces after each sale and will rotate in new pieces at the beginning of July and again in August. She will also be setting up sales of prints and cards on July 5th & 19th and August 2nd & 16th.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org)

## Special Feature by Randy McKean

*This poem is taken from prompts that Beth Karow and I gave to those present at our March 22 service about Paying Attention. The prompts come from a Mary Oliver poem, and we used them to encourage people to respond with those things they remember from the first time they came to UUCM, be it 20 years ago or for the first time that morning, 20 minutes ago.*

*I've fashioned them into a meditation for us to ponder. In this meditation, all of us are the first-time visitor, the events, the sights and sounds, the feelings of 30 years of UUCM occur simultaneously, it is a time slip, a discovery and celebration.*

### Ode to 246 South Church Street

You walk into a hall and  
though you have never been there before  
you are home  
No crosses but flags flapping  
Pride, Earth, Black Lives Matter, a big sign that says Vote  
Warm smiles and welcoming hearts Gwen gives that smile  
and you want to be her  
Kathryn sings out her hello and you want to join her  
No crosses but wooden pews  
Pride flags, Earth flags, Black Lives Matter banners  
a great group of hippies in green plastic lawn chairs  
No crosses, but candles on the altar  
No crosses, but quilts on the wall  
Art in the foyer, symbols of the wind  
Warmth, peace, people smiling

The room full of people, generations all mixed  
Big Jim Lane with little Hannah sitting on his lap  
Your children are welcomed  
You're told you're the parent of a wonderful child

They know you from Zoom and are delighted you are real  
You sit in the back and when it's over you're going to run out  
the door as fast as you can  
You're astonished you are in a church and  
DON'T want to run out  
You're astonished you are in a church and it feels like home

Words of greeting, sounds of laughter,  
Beautiful songs being sung  
Jim Lowe plays jazz piano, *Pennies from Heaven* signals  
"Pass the Plate Please"  
No big G God or cardinal sins  
Beautiful songs being sung  
Blue Boat Home, Blue Boat Home

Astonished  
Delighted (This place was once a funeral home?!)  
Anita Wald, a Grandmother for Peace, is there to greet you  
Reverend Meghan says, "We've been expecting you."  
Reverend Julie sings about *All This Rain Falling Down*  
Utah Phillips spins the tale of Samhain (sow-win)  
Reverend Denis and his Creation Cosmology  
Reverend Kevin and his Enneagram Philosophy

You admire the words that come from the heart  
You admire the deep wisdom that comes from the sages  
You admire worship shared instead of administered  
You admire you're astonished that moment it shifts from the  
superficial to hit you directly in the heart

It is profound  
It is magic  
You feel it in your bones  
Fun and fantastical  
Your eyes light up at mention of a Men's Group, a Women's  
Group, Singing Meditations, Stories for all ages  
Puppet shows, bees on trees,  
Giant origami giraffes

Calling all directions, light in the darkness  
Shaykh Farajajé speaks of Islam while his son the dervish spins  
A feeling of safety  
Open hearts  
How many tears are held  
You are not Alone  
Honesty vulnerability  
Words give voice to deeper feelings  
People share themselves  
You walk down the aisle you pick up a stone and  
hold those feelings  
You share joys and sorrows  
You sob joys and sorrows  
You are gathered up

This place is familiar yet with different faces  
Welcome without pressure  
You feel embraced  
Tenderness ongoing, not momentary  
sustained  
You have no idea what is happening you assume others do  
A door opens where you truly belong  
Something you want to be a part of  
You learn about Trust  
Trust  
Revolution  
Revolution  
Movement  
Unity and Love

# Justice News and Activities



## BENDING THE ARC TASK FORCE Postcards Update

Postcarding is one of the important ways UUCM is participating in Freedom Summer 2026. Forty UUCM members and friends are working on 4,000 postcards to get out the Black vote for the midterm elections in North Carolina. They are hurrying to get them done so they can start early on the 7,000 postcards they have ordered for the Georgia midterms.

### OUR PARTNER CENTER FOR COMMON GROUND

got us started early so we could have lots of time to write and stockpile the finished cards to mail in October just before the midterm elections. Some of our writers like to stockpile them at home – fun to watch the pile grow! Other like to leave them in the “finished cards” box in the social hall at UUCM. We didn’t expect to get Georgia addresses until mid-July, but they arrive almost a month early. We are busy building packets now. The Georgia campaign is writing to roughly one million registered Black voters in the Atlanta area and across Georgia’s rural “Black Belt” counties. These areas will be critical to election outcomes at both the state and federal levels and we can help produce unprecedented levels of Black voter participation in the 2026 midterms.

### IF YOU’D LIKE TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN,

or order more, you can order Georgia packets by emailing Gail Johnson Vaughan at [gailjv@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:gailjv@uugrassvalley.org). If you are not sure if you’ve already ordered Georgia packets, or how many you ordered, Gail JV can give you that info via email. The Georgia packets will be released as soon as North Carolina writers let Gail know they have finished their North Carolina packets.

### WANT COMPANY WHILE YOU WRITE YOUR POSTCARDS?

We have weekly drop-in postcard writing parties Mondays 9:00 AM to noon at UUCM!

### NEW TO POSTCARDING WITH UUCM?

Our Partner: The Center for Common Ground’s (CFCG) Reclaim Our Vote Campaigns increase BIPOC voter turnout in states experiencing voter suppression.

### UUCM’S ROLE:

UUCM members and friends use CFGC’s materials to provide Black voters information on early voting dates, phone numbers, and websites for county election officials. To help voters sort through long and confusing ballots in advance, the postcard script includes a link to ActiVote,

a helpful platform that personalizes ballot and polling information, verifies registration, voter ID, and more.

UUCM makes it easy for you to participate in this important get-out-the vote effort by gathering all the materials and assembling them into packets of 20 postcards, 20 stamps, 20 addresses, etc.

Questions? Email [gailjv@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:gailjv@uugrassvalley.org)

## Freedom Summer 2026

By Leslie King

This July and August UUCM will honor and participate in Freedom Summer 2026. Each Sunday service the Bend the Arc and Justice committees will provide two readings related to the American struggle for freedom from slavery, racism, for the right for all citizens to vote and all people to thrive in this nation.

Freedom Summer 2026 is a massive nationwide mobilization uniting civil rights groups, faith leaders, and labor organizations in direct response to the Supreme Court’s striking down key parts of the Voting Rights Act. Its purpose is to build collective political power, defend democracy, and fight voter suppression ahead of the 2026 midterm elections. The movement addresses the interconnected attacks on voting rights, education, housing and economic freedom. This nationwide multiracial civil rights and civic empowerment movement is anchored in the south and draws its inspiration from Freedom Summer 1964 where Martin Luther King Jr. and many other heroes led, marched and fought and died for the Civil Rights Movement.



For more information, please see [Southern Poverty Law Center](https://www.southernpoverty.org/) website or the [National Urban League](https://www.nationalurbanleague.org/) website amongst others to launch on Juneteenth.

*Left: Ruby and Katie planted pumpkins at our new UUCM home.*

*Below: UUCM joined the Walk for Faith, Justice and Democracy*



## Nisenan News

By Eileen Hale

One of the things the Nisenan Team is here to do is to share what we've learned with the larger community. Sometimes it's in small ways, like this one:

In a conversation on Nextdoor, a man who takes his donkey for walks (I want to meet them!) posted about their walk through the Burton Ranch, where the Tsi-Akim Maidu have built bark houses (which he helped them construct) and a sweat lodge. He concluded his post saying something about "the Native Americans that lived and roamed the foothills way long ago." I saw an opportunity and a need to correct the record, and I posted this: "Note that the Nisenan (Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan) are still here locally; the Mt. Maidu, including the Tsi-Akim Maidu, are still here, to our northwest, and sometimes visit here and with other indigenous groups are in the area. They are not gone; they're not "long ago," though they've been here since long ago. If you'd like to support the people who lost so much 175 years ago, here's a link to the [Ancestral Homelands Reciprocity Program](#) . I donate a small amount every month; I consider it part of my rent for the land I live on."

He responded appreciatively, thanking me for the information, noting that he was afraid to say too much as he might get names or spellings wrong. I'm always relieved when what I have to say is appreciated. I try to be gentle, but I worry a little that the person I'm replying to will feel criticized.

Speaking of the Ancestral Homelands Reciprocity Program (AHRP): as you may know, UUCM is a yearly donor; I as an individual am also a donor (monthly). For me, one thing I love about this program is how it gives me a chance to make some amends for harm for which I feel some familial responsibility. This feels like it's healing both for me and for the Nisenan. For other people, the draw can be simply the desire to support the recovery of a people who were impacted at Ground Zero of the Gold Rush. Or you may value the cultural knowledge of Indigenous Americans and wish to help its people work to restore it. For me, it's a very good feeling, and as noted in my Nextdoor comment, I consider it part of my rent.



## 'UBA SEO BOOK EVENT

In other Nisenan Team news, our newest team member, Lisa Higbee, attended the 'Uba Seo Book Event and gave this report:

On Sunday, May 31, the 'Uba Seo: Nisenan Arts and Culture Center sponsored a book launch to promote *What Came West*, a novel by Josh Weil.

There was a great turnout: approximately 50-75 people attended, including several UUCM members. All seats were filled, and many more people were standing. The event began with Josh Weil reading a few pages from his book. I was inspired to hear him read the words he wrote. *What Came West* is, in some parts, a difficult read, as it describes (through fictional history) the effects of the Gold Rush and its impact to the Nisenan people.



Shelly Covert, Nevada City Rancheria Tribal Spokesperson, joined Josh in a conversation, sharing with the audience their experience of collaborating during the writing of the novel. Josh explained that, as a non-native, it was very important that he portray the Nisenan accurately in his book; he relied on input from Shelly and other Nisenan tribal members to ensure this was done correctly. In honor of the tribe, all proceeds from book sales that evening went directly to the Nisenan. [You can watch this talk on YouTube](#) (Note: The Q&A portion of the video begins at about 16:20 minutes in.)

# Justice News and Activities

## Share the Plate

UUCM's May *Share the Plate* partner, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#) will receive \$\$1,200, 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 June partner, [Color Me Human](#).



Our July *Share the Plate* partner is [Hospitality House](#). They operate Utah's Place shelter (named after our own Utah Phillips). Hospitality House provides needed services for the homeless population in Nevada County.

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



## Hospitality House Donations

*Our continued generous support of Hospitality House is greatly appreciated by the guests and staff!*

### Currently, Needed Items Are:

- Men's and Women's Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Twin-Size Fitted Sheets
- **New** pillows and pillow cases
- Towels and Blankets
- NEW Unopened Toiletries – *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*

## New Recycling Program at UUCM!

**NexTrex**  
**RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG**

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing

**FROM THE STORE**  
✓ Produce bags ✓ Store bags ✓ Ice bags

**FROM YOUR PANTRY**  
✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags ✓ Cereal box liners ✓ Case overwrap ✓ Bread bags

**FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR**  
✓ Newspaper sleeves ✓ Dry cleaning bags ✓ Bubble wrap ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue.



### **Voted Best Nonprofit in Nevada County in 2024!**

IFM sends thanks to all who donated to March Madness. It was very successful! Due to the changes in CalFresh (SNAP) requirements, many folks will lose their food assistance. That will increase the demand even more for IFM's services. Donations of pet food, non-perishable food, and clean grocery bags and egg cartons are appreciated..

...

### **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](mailto:justice@uugrassvalley.org).

### **IFM RECYCLING PROGRAM COLLECTION**

**Last Saturday of Each Month from 9:00 AM to Noon**

**NEXT DONATION DAY: Saturday, July 25, 2026**

Peace Lutheran Church Parking Lot, 828 West Main St., GV

- 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

Planning a deck? Trex makes it easy.  
Find your inspiration at [trex.com](http://trex.com)

# 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](mailto:Admin@uugrassvalley.org).

SUNDAY SERVICES - 9:00 AM - IN PERSON ONLY,  
AND 11:00 AM VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON

## Make Connections at UUCM

Room assignments for teams and groups will be available by contacting [Admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Admin@uugrassvalley.org) or calling the 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Men@uugrassvalley.org)

### SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7:00 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM  
Contact [SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org)



WOMEN'S GROUP  
MONTHLY POTLUCK –  
SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM  
AT UUCM- SQUIRREL CREEK!

Our next meeting is Monday, July 13 at 6:00 PM.

This month our potluck dinner will be followed by an introductory Qi Gong class taught by member Sondra Schwartz who has taught for 30 years. You can do it from a chair if you wish. There are 64 movements but we will only do the first few and she will show us how easy it is to stay focused on healing and to keep the energy flowing around your body, which helps you to practice not falling. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

# Community Connections

Since we are just getting to know our way around our new Squirrel Creek campus, we don't necessarily know which room will be used for our meetings. Room assignments for teams and groups will be available by contacting [Admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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, July 8 at 10:45 AM at UUCM - Squirrel Creek Road.

We will continue with the 10-session UU Humanism Discussion Series.

### SESSION 6 – FREEDOM, AGENCY, AND RESPONSIBILITY

*Purpose: To examine freedom, agency, and responsibility within a non-theistic moral framework*

#### HERE'S A BRIEF ARTICLE DISCUSSING THE TOPIC:

#### [Freedom, Agency and Responsibility](#)

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](mailto:Humanism@uugrassvalley.org).

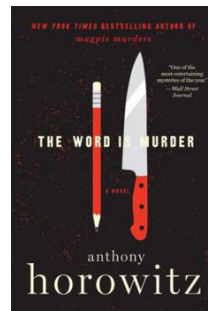
(Please view the [UUCM website calendar](#) for the most up-to-date meeting info.)

## UUCM Book Group

THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 PM  
AT UUCM - SQUIRREL CREEK  
[Books@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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:



July 28  
*The Word Is Murder: A Novel*  
by Anthony Horowitz

The first book in a series of six mysteries featuring a brilliant and disgraced former police detective.  
400 pages.

Facilitated by Theresa H. or Cheryl B.

#### WE'VE CHOSEN NEW BOOKS!

#### August 25

*Force of Nature: Three Women Tackle the John Muir Trail*  
Non-fiction by local author Joan Griffin about three women who brave accidents, ferocious weather, while adopting another hiker abandoned by her partner along the trail.  
395 pages. Facilitator TBA.

#### September 22

*Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles  
A young woman navigates New York City social strata in 1937 by the author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *The Lincoln Highway*. 368 pages.  
Facilitated by Jo W.

#### October 27

*Theo of Golden: A Novel* by Allen Levi  
A stranger to a small town gifts locals a portrait of themselves in exchange for the person's story. 400 pages.  
Facilitated by Judith G.

#### November 24

*Second Nature: A Gardener's Education* by Michael Pollan  
Essays that capture the rhythmic nature of our everyday engagement with the outdoors. 320 pages.  
Facilitated by Cheryl B.

#### [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.*

## Meeting Families Where They Are

By Lindsay Dunckel, Family Ministry Team

Many years ago, I arrived at UUCM with my husband and our two kids, just shy of 5 and 7 years old. Family Ministry was called “Religious Education” back then and took place as a one-room schoolhouse, serving mostly school-aged children, just like now (though many iterations have come and gone since!). My children loved coming to church; as they got a little older, they reflected that church was the place where they could bring their “whole” selves – nothing to hide, nothing to pretend to be to fit in. I loved that for them, as I loved the multi-generational relationships they got a chance to form: the little kids they nurtured, the teens they looked up to, the octogenarians they befriended. I could see the richness this all added to their lives. I know through many thoughtful conversations that both my children carry with them the deep life lessons they learned at UUCM. And I want the same for today’s children!

Family life looks different than it did when I arrived at UUCM twenty-three years ago. Schedules are more hectic. It takes more work hours to put a roof over heads and food in bellies. Children have more exposure to media. Powerful adults are modeling very different values than we might choose for children to see in action. Parents are more stressed. What can UUCM do to meet parents where they are? The UUA published a report last year about how UU communities are poised to meet parents’ needs. They used the US Surgeon General’s report “Parents Under Pressure” as a starting point and shared the following findings:

Parents are living with striking economic insecurity, despite the generally higher incomes of UUs in general. Feeding them at every opportunity is a welcome blessing.

Families are experiencing a huge time crunch – inviting offerings are those that are free, low-stress, and come-as-you-are.

Parents of neurodivergent kids are often overrepresented in UU communities because of our stated commitments to inclusion; this is also true of gender non-conforming and LGBTQ+ identifying kids and youth. The need for acceptance and a sense of belonging is heightened in these families, who are also facing social-political stressors. They need a safe harbor.

In the past year, we have served 46 children and 22 of them came back 3 or more times. On any given Sunday, we served an average of about 5 children. Seven of our children came 15 – 24 times over the course of the year. The numbers we serve are growing, nearly doubling from 2023-24 when we served 25 children, 16 of them more than once. But there is plenty of room for us to grow! How else might we meet families where they are? If you are interested in helping the Family Ministry Team think through how to do this, please reach out to Lindsay Dunckel at [familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:familyministry@uugrassvalley.org). Parents especially welcome!

– Lindsay





## Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

12582 Squirrel Creek Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Telephone: (530) 274-1675

Website: [uugrassvalley.org](http://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](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

### **UUCM STAFF MEMBERS**

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Siobhan Boylan, *Office Administrator*

### **E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

[Minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Minister@uugrassvalley.org)

[Admin@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Admin@uugrassvalley.org)

### **TELEPHONE**

(530) 274-1661

(530) 274-1675

**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*