

the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

August 2026

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Sunday Service is at 10:00 AM
including 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.*

LINKS FOR 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

August 2 On Mind and Heart: A Question Box Service
Rev. Kevin Tarsa
with Carol Nimick, Worship Associate

It is a tradition in some UU congregations to hold an annual Question Box service, in which the minister responds, usually on the spot, to written questions handed in by that day's participants. There's no telling where such questions will go. We broaden that slightly this year. Yes, you'll have a chance to write and turn in questions for Rev. Kevin, or to send questions ahead of time, and he'll answer as many as time allows in the service, but we'll also collect two other kinds of questions: 1) The large personal life questions you are asking yourself right now, and 2) The big questions that you feel are urgent or significant enough to warrant an entire service, or workshop or study/reflection group.

August 9 On a Role!
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Carol Nimick and
Sarah Joy Blum, Worship Associates

Picking up on Deepa Iyer's insights into human ecosystems, as well as our ongoing exploration of what Beloved Community requires, we celebrate the ways that having many different perspectives and roles among us feed and grow our spirits. We deepen our connections and nurture our relationships, but we also help us reach our common, values-centered goals. Goodness knows, the world needs all of it!

August 16 Music is the Medicine
Copperwoman
with Beth Karow, Worship Associate

Copperwoman is a "song-carrier" who catches songs that emerge out of the energy and common experiences of our growing, living beings. They inspire us with wisdom and insights and rise from a place of core connection. We'll join Copperwoman in singing simple, yet profound songs that feel instantly familiar and that nourish feelings of closeness and unity, creating a fertile ground for prayer and healing: meeting the moment with musical medicine.

Note: Join us in a **Community Circle Song** on **Saturday, August 15** for a dive into the joy of shared singing with Copperwoman! Watch for details.

August 23 What's Your Story?
You with Rev. Kevin
with Beth Karow, Worship Associate

UUCM's annual campout weekend in the Sierra Buttes offers people spacious, intimate, and spontaneous chances to connect

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Rev. Kevin Tarsa
UUCM Minister

From the Minister

August 2026

To begin, thank you for your many expressions of love and care around the death and loss of my older sister at the end of June. The journey with her and with my siblings over six months was rich, infused with abundant mutual appreciation and love, and an absolute commitment to my sister's well-being at all levels. As death always is, her death too has been an invitation to look around and to pay attention to what most matters, really matters, in this life, and to pay attention to how we spend our precious days.

Like many of you, I took a little summer time in July to breathe within spacious surroundings, at the coast and in the redwoods, in my case. The life of a community such as ours never really stops, so making space for breathing room – regularly, annually, and over the years – is important. It is physically, emotionally, and spiritually important.

As August arrives, I feel more ready to turn attention forward to the coming UUCM year and to the visioning and planning that help important things to unfold in time. I am more aware than ever of the importance of shared ministry: many hands, hearts, and minds informing and making possible the larger work. Grounding what we do together at UUCM is one of the deepest reasons for being a part of this religious community in the first place. The possibilities for the new year are spread across my mind and my heart and are just beginning to take clearer shape.



Our opening theme come September will be Beginnings, "a very good place to start," as the song suggests. Following the congregation's delayed annual meeting at the end of August, where members will approve the ways money will be spent this year, elect officers and others, and otherwise make any other large decisions at hand, UUCM will turn its face into the wind and move into the year from this new, larger, home and the hopes it inspires.

Right now, and in preparation, I invite you to join me and each other in some late summer imagining of the next possibilities for this aspirational beloved community to be and become. And please don't forget to imagine your own ways of sustaining this community's being and of nurturing this community's becoming. You, in synergy with many others, my friend, are a key ingredient in what's possible.

With gratitude and care,

– Rev. Kevin

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

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



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



Board of Trustees

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

Selfless Service

Your Board of Trustees has remained engaged in the work of settling into our new facility as well as tending to business. At this time of year, well, a little bit later than usual, we begin preparing a budget for the new fiscal year (July 2026 through June 2027). At the July meeting, we discussed salaries & benefits as well as consideration for new positions. These are challenging decisions as we try to get our arms around the costs of the new facility without having history to guide us. Our generous members and friends along with new members have increased annual pledges to make budgeting new costs a little more manageable. Team leaders are putting their budget requests together and working with Rev. Kevin to be sure our programs are supported.

The Board uses ad hoc committees to support their work, and this delegated work is invaluable to keep things moving forward. One ad hoc committee is the Facilities Committee. These committee members are Marlene Bottenfield, Shannon Dooley Miller, Jeff Gold, Ellen Goodman, Beth Karow, Alec MacLean, Gail Schulz, and Heidi-Lynn Tayler. They have the difficult job of prioritizing the many remaining building projects and carefully allocating the remaining capital contributions. Communication about this process will be coming directly from the committee. Heidi Lynn Tayler is also working on a project to organize our rental program and carefully document what type of rentals we can enter into without jeopardizing our church non-profit status. We have received several requests from organizations interested in renting our attractive space. Next, we have a new, barely formed team of Kern Hildebrand, Pam Kisor, and Viv Tipton to assess the work of our Minister, Rev. Kevin. This process is done every three to five years and was last completed in 2022.

I personally find the governance work of the Board interesting and engaging but one need only visit the campus any day of the week to find all kinds of other interesting and engaging work happening inside and

outside of the building. I am inspired daily by the pride of ownership so many people are showing by improving our grounds, enhancing Sunday services, delivering Hospitality, participating in Justice work, helping in the office, gathering for a wide range of meetings and generally making the beautiful Squirrel Creek campus a place to find companionship, inspiration, and a feeling of welcome. Volunteering is a powerful way to make a difference in our community and enrich one's own life. Thank you to the many hands and hearts enriching life at UUCM!

In service,

- Carol

Please Plan to Attend our Community Business Meeting

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 AFTER SERVICE:

The Board will work through the new budget during special meetings in August and prepare a recommendation for Members to vote on at the Community Business meeting scheduled for August 30. We will also elect new Board members to fill the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, and Member at Large as well as elect new members to the Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend this important meeting following the Sunday service.

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

Carol Nimick, Worship Team
Worship@uugrassvalley.org

UPCOMING SERVICES

Continued from Page 1

*(August 23 Service description continued...)
and to discover more about one another over warm morning beverages, on scenic daytime hikes, during shared meals, or around an evening fire. Inspired by that energy and gift, we lift up the ways this happens all year long, and we gather around the fire in our own way this Sunday, a base camp of sorts with our fellow travelers.*

August 30 *Nurturing and Growing our Beloved Community, Part 2* – A response to our June 28 service where we explored our differences and similarities by listening to each other and opening our hearts wide.
Marlene Bottenfield and Mick Hayes,
Worship Associates

What are the next steps in strengthening our beloved community? Our personal history has created who we are today, both individually and as a community. How can we use our histories as well as our dreams to create a more loving world? When we do the inner work of opening our hearts to ourselves and each other, we create the world we want to live in.

The Worship Team is in “reset mode” after focusing on services that memorialized our Church Street home, celebratory and reflective moments and activities that inspired stories, connections, and experiences now held in our hearts and memories.

With the move, the team has been devoted to services welcoming us into our new home. As we settle, our thoughts are about this new expansive space and what it may inspire. We invite you to the opportunity to create vibrant and new services together as we discover what “lives here.”

Besides working with changes in our sanctuary, the Worship Team has a reconfiguration of members. After three years of giving the team her time and energy as co-chair, her ability to find lovely quotes and readings, her thoughtful welcomes and her heart, Cheryl Morris is taking a rest. The team will miss her. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Viv Tipton as a new Worship Associate and Mic Hayes, Sarah Joy Blum, and Rod Tayler as they consider joining.

Summer Blessings to All!

- Carol





A &A Team

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



Parish Care

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

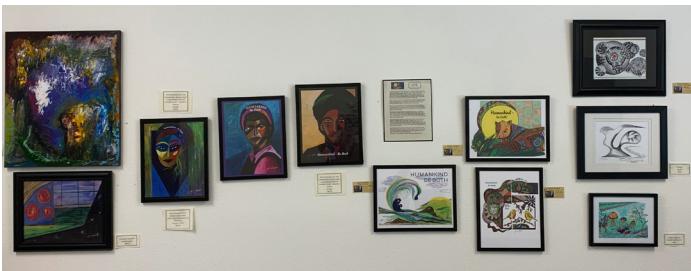


The Feeling of Home

It is our honor to announce the Memorial Tree has found a new home. One wall of the music room has been dedicated to this cherished memorial to those who have gone before us. The current

intention is to leave the rest of the wall bare, giving the tree breathing room and the gravitas it deserves.

The music room is also the new home for our art exhibitions. If you haven't already visited Yvonne Bartlett's exhibit, or even if you have, please stop by to enjoy her work. Yvonne has been changing the display, so there's always something new. And if you are an artist and a member of our UUCM community, we would love to feature your artwork in one of our ongoing art exhibitions. In the past, we've featured pottery, mosaics, paintings and drawings, photographs, collages, needlework, woodwork, and architectural drawings. If it can be hung on a wall or displayed on a shelf, we would welcome the opportunity to share your work with the church and community. Applications and information sheets are now available in the music room.



As we grow into our new space, more and more artwork will find its way to our walls. The Art & Aesthetics Team is being very intentional about the placement of each piece, so the process is being done in a slow, deliberate manner. We've been listening to the ideas and concerns of the members of the congregation at large and value all the input we receive. We acknowledge and appreciate the care and commitment of all our members in creating an atmosphere that supports our values and mission, and one that feels like the home we all know UUCM to be.

If you have questions, we may have answers. Feel free to contact us at art@uugrassvalley.org.

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:

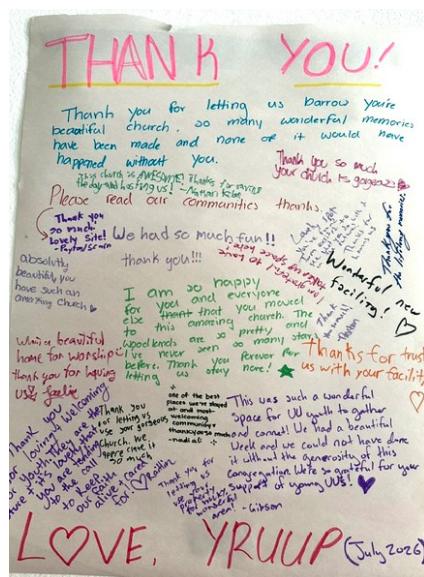
George Dunstan, Gwen Eymann, Carol Grant, Sue Gregory, and Corrie Silva, or you can email the whole team: LayPastoralCare@uugrassvalley.org



Membership

Laura Harter
Chair, Membership Team
membership@uugrassvalley.org

It's such a pleasure to see our busy and buzzing Social Hall after services. There's room to move around as well as sit and socialize. I know there are plans to address the acoustics in the building, in the meantime it is good to see folks gather.



I was out of town when our kitchen and building were "road-tested" by 50 teens for several days. It makes me glad to read their thank you note that communicates such appreciation for our space and community. I am glad that they felt at home in our old campus, and excited that our new home will be even better able to welcome future visits from UU teens from the Bay Area and others places!

It's been a wonderful series of experiments, shifting our greeting and hospitality routines to our new space, and it has gone remarkably well. Your patience, suggestions, and participation are appreciated as we settle in. I hope you will express your appreciation to those who actively participate in welcoming and hosting our community each Sunday. And I hope you will join in this effort – greeting and hospitality are simple and easy ways to nurture yourself and our community. May you find a simple way to contribute to our everyday practical life at UUCM – developing a "practical practice" as a spiritual practice – like greeting, hospitality, knowing how to sort trash, being trained to adjust thermostats and lock or unlock doors, washing towels, bringing food, washing dishes, making coffee, or taking out the trash. Many such opportunities await you – please reach out to learn more.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Laura

MEMBERSHIP TEAM:

Laura Harter, Chair,

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

Hospitality Team

Coffee, Cookies, and YOU!

By Ellen Goodwin, Hospitality Team Member

As the congregation enjoys our spacious new social hall, the Hospitality Team continues to refine the process for ensuring we have coffee, tea, and snacks available every Sunday.

New volunteers are always welcome for our Sunday social hour, which takes place after the 10:00 AM service. It's a great, no-pressure way to become acquainted with our friendly team.

Our sign-up system does not require a long-term commitment. You can sign up [HERE](#) for the specific days and tasks you are interested in. A team member will always be available to show you the ropes.

Use the same link to sign up to bring finger foods—cut-up fruit, cheese sticks, cookies, etc. To minimize clean-up, we are not offering foods that require plates or cutlery. If you can bring a snack even once a month, that would help us to continue offering food after Sunday services.

There is also a paper sign-up sheet in the kitchen for both kitchen volunteers and food.

In addition to keeping the coffee and snacks flowing, Laura Harter and the Hospitality Team are discussing plans for the kitchen with the new Facilities Committee. We have decided not to pursue commercial kitchen status for now. While this might attract groups looking to rent our facility for events, the cost required to meet commercial kitchen standards is beyond our current budget. We do not need commercial kitchen status to host potlucks, pancake breakfasts, weddings, and other events—so hopefully these are all in our future.

If you have any questions, contact us at hospitality@uugrassvalley.org



Finding Cherished Belonging by Viv Tipton

I walked away from my birth religion when I was 12 years old. A gap between the teachings of the Catholic church and the actions of the adults, both clergy and congregation, drove me away. I was a kid with questions; they preferred quiet adherence. It was clear there was no room for a boisterous chatterbox who was not swallowing what they were dishing out. My disappointment and hurt ran deep. I spent a lifetime steering clear of churches and religion, with exceptions made only for weddings and funerals.

Fast forward many years. I discovered an author named Gregory Boyle, a Jesuit priest and the founder of Homeboy Industries. He writes about his experiences walking with those on the fringes. His life's work has been supporting gang members in LA to heal and discover their inherent worth. I gobbled up all of Boyle's books, his words taking up permanent residence in my thoughts and perspectives. In 2024 Gregory Boyle wrote *Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times*. We all have books that change our lives - *Cherished Belonging* is shaping mine.

In *Cherished Belonging* Gregory Boyle writes of two basic principles: Everyone is unshakably good (no exceptions), and We belong to each other (no exceptions.) Simple and true. Well not exactly simple. Living by these principles is tricky.

What about the person who slings slurs or steals or takes the parking spot you were waiting for? Or never paid their child support? Or hurts children and animals? Are they unshakably good? Do I belong to those whose actions cause suffering? I discovered if I am to answer yes to these questions, I have some work to do.

On my better days, when I don't understand the actions of another, or their behavior scares me, I begin with simply noticing. I ask myself, am I sitting in judgment or fear? Often this is as far as I get. Noticing.

Sometimes I go one step further. I look beyond the behavior in others or myself to the unseen, often unknown wounds driving the actions. Faith that we belong to each other and that we are all unshakably good ignites my curiosity about the situation. Regardless of the details, my understanding grows and my view widens.

Fast forward just one more year. In 2024 I found UUCM or it found me. I witnessed a community endeavoring to shrink the gap between their values and their actions. I learned not all religious communities are the same.

At UUCM I am offered tools to practice my adopted principles. Tools freely given in sermons on Sundays, tools witnessed in the actions of congregants all week long. I observe skilled communication and kind and gentle offerings of compassion. When tempers flare and our fragility is exposed, I see patience and empathy. I see healthy boundaries in place of walls. I see a group of committed humans recognizing the humanity in each other.

I see cherished belonging.



And, here's a little something from Jennifer Dewey, who is recovering nicely from surgery:

The Unitarian Universalist Jumping Mouse

by Jennifer Dewey

Once upon a time there was a jumping mouse,
Conceived in a Unitarian Minister's house.
His birth-nest did not suit his emotional perception,
Of the belief he was Unitarian exception.
The rules of mousiness, especially the church kind,
Literally drove him out of his mind.
He jumped over tables and standing lamps,
Causing his brethren mice stomach cramps.
"No problem!" he shouted, jumping out the social hall,
"You'll be universally sorry I left you all!"
He jumped along Church Street looking for a spot,
Where like-thinking members would love him a lot.
He knew in his Unitarian Universalist rodent soul,
There was only one place he could play a meaningful role.
He jumped in a true-blue Unitarian way,
Returning to the Sanctuary where he would stay.
It was the Unitarian Universalist jumping mouse's belief,
That jumping from one faith to another offers no relief.
These days he jumps from the Caring Team to the kitchen,
With ease and with emotional and spiritual conviction.
After a very wise sermon he jumps to the food,
Where the congregation is in a Universally Unitarian



Justice News and Activities

BENDING THE ARC TASK FORCE

Help Control Voter Suppression

By Gail Johnson Vaughan

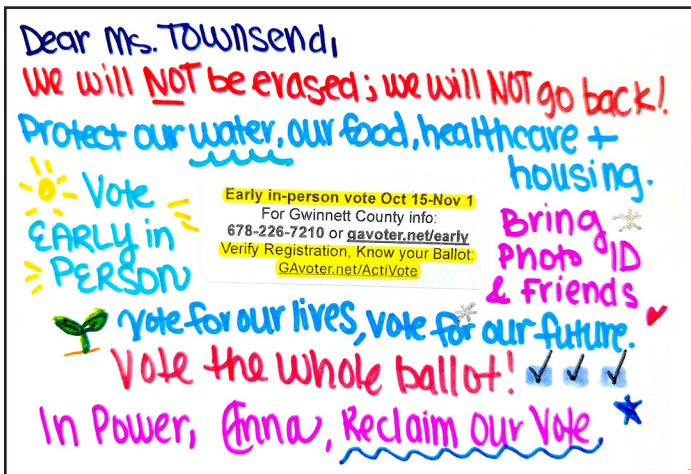
"Did you know that, in every state now, if just 10 to 12% of poor and low wage folk, Black folk who don't vote were to vote, it would change everything. Did you know that the current president only won by less than 2% of the vote...but 90 million people didn't even vote? If we use our voice and our vote, wannabe kings and dictators will have to go home... or somewhere, they won't even have a chance."

--Rev. Dr. William Barber—
leader of the Poor People's Campaign

Getting registered Black voters to cast their ballots is key to saving our democracy. Voter suppression and intimidation are real threats to Black voters in Georgia. They need our support. That is why UUCM members and friends are writing postcards to give registered Black voters the information and support they need to cast their votes.

If you haven't already, please consider picking up one postcard packet from the foyer or social hall. Each packet has 20 postcards, stamps, and everything you need to write and send the postcards you write. You have until Oct 13 to write – plenty of time to do 20 cards.

Here's what the finished postcards look like:



Questions? Email gailjv@uugrassvalley.org

GREEN SANCTUARY TASK FORCE

Green Sanctuary Meets the County Resiliency Project

By Debbie Gibbs, Green Sanctuary Task Force Member

Recently, Nevada County held its third meeting in a series on The Resiliency Project (TRP). Open to all, these meetings highlight activities that groups and individuals are planning or already implementing to meet the needs of our community. Abundant imagination and activity abound, and TRP provides a forum to connect, learn, and support each other.

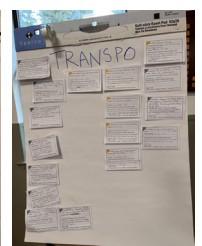
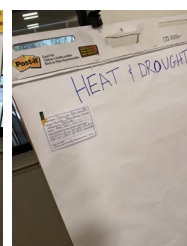
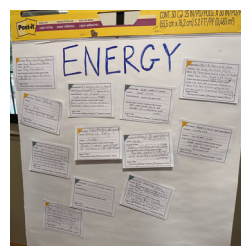
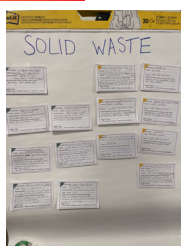
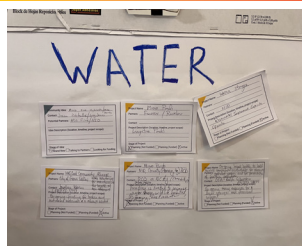
The Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains (UUCM) Green Sanctuary initiative focuses on protecting the environment, using our finite resources wisely, and promoting a world where all of earth's plants and creatures will thrive. These objectives are the same as the goals of TRP.

At the June 30 TRP community meeting, both familiar partners and new community members interested in learning more about local resiliency efforts attended—individuals, agencies, nonprofits, and grassroots organizations. TRP commented that "The conversation made one thing very clear: resilience is not built by one organization alone. It is built through collaboration, practical action, shared knowledge, and neighbors taking responsibility for the spaces and communities they care about." In that vein, Jim Bair, from UUCM attended and shared plans concerning the new church campus at Squirrel Creek.

The TRP range of topics and projects is far-ranging: land stewardship, fire resilience, sustainable agriculture, improved housing and transit, carbon footprint management, energy conservation, waste management reform, water conservation, and much more. Attendees shared ideas and ongoing projects and invited connections with interested parties, all in the interest of collaborative community activism. In addition to partnerships, TRP also shares detailed funding opportunities from inside and outside the community. If you would like to know more, go to the [Nevada County Website](https://www.nevadacounty.org/).

For more comprehensive information, sign up for the newsletter at that site. All are welcome to attend the quarterly meetings. The county hosts in-person sessions from 4:00-6:00 PM in the LOVE Building at Condon Park in Grass Valley. The next meetings are Tuesday, September 29 and Tuesday, December 1.

These are some of the posters from the recent meeting of The Resiliency Project:



Justice News and Activities

Share the Plate

UUCM's June *Share the Plate* partner, [Color Me Human](#) will receive \$1,729.50, thanks to the generosity of UUCM members, friends, and visitors. These weekly donations add up!

As of this writing, we are finishing up collections for our July partner, [Hospitality House](#).



Our August *Share the Plate* partner will be UUCM's longtime partner in service to the community, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#). IFM's mission is to fight food insecurity in Nevada County, providing groceries to thousands. They distribute about two million pounds of food annually.

Reminder! Please submit your ballots to vote for the Share the Plate organizations for this next fiscal year by August 9. You can cast your ballot online or submit the paper form, which is available at the Justice table in the Social Hall. Completed paper ballots can be placed in the Justice mailbox near the copy machine or in the ballot box on the Justice table.

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



Voted Best Nonprofit in Nevada County in 2024!

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, August 29, 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



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 and Shorts, S-M-L
- New Men's and Women's Underwear
- Men's and Women's Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Twin-Size Fitted Sheets and Pillow Cases
- **New** pillows
- 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!



NextTrex.com
540-542-6930

NextTrex

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



Planning a deck? Trex makes it easy.
Find your inspiration at 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.

**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 or calling the Office.

Please contact the organizers if you are interested in joining!

WALKING GROUP

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, OFF-SITE - MEET AT 7:30 AM
Email Walking@uugrassvalley.org

We meet on **Tuesdays** at the Wolf Creek Trail/Northstar Mining Museum parking area, and on **Thursdays** at 418 Chapel, Grass Valley. Be sure to ask our Office Administrator Siobhan (Admin@uugrassvalley.org) to include you on our walking group mailing list so you can hear about last minute changes.

MEN'S GROUP

WEDNESDAYS FROM 8:30 - 10:30 AM AT UUCM
Men gather to enjoy each other's company.
Contact for the group: Men@uugrassvalley.org

SINGING MEDITATION CIRCLE

FIRST THURSDAYS, 7:00 PM, ONSITE AND VIA ZOOM
Contact SingingMeditation@uugrassvalley.org



**WOMEN'S GROUP
MONTHLY POTLUCK –
SECOND MONDAYS, 6:00 PM
OFFSITE AT PIONEER PARK!**

Our next meeting is Monday, August 10 at 6:00 PM.
It will be held offsite at the **picnic area in Pioneer Park by Deer Creek**. Enter the parking area off Park Avenue so you can park close by. There are tables, sinks, and restrooms there. Bring some picnic food to share and your own plate and utensils, including serving utensils for your dish if needed.

Look for updates, driving info, 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.



ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE

EVERY FRIDAY, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
AT UUCM - SQUIRREL CREEK RD.
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.*

UUCM Library Reopens!

By Kate Canan

The UUCM Library is open again for book checkout. Just write the title, your name, contact information, and date checked out in the notebook next to the return basket. When you return the book, put it in the basket and note the date. Library elves (see below for volunteer opportunities) will reshelve them.

We are not dogmatic about how long a book can be kept. We leave the length of your free and responsible search for truth and meaning, aided by the books you check out, up to your individual conscience. Please do consider the interdependent web of our congregation and the principle of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. (Two to three weeks is reasonable.)

We want to be intentional about what books are donated and purchased. If you have a suggestion or offering, please contact Kate Canan at library@uugrassvalley.org. We cannot at this time take magazines or fiction. Categories we offer include the following:

- UU history, theology, and spirituality
- Leadership resources
- UU influences from other world religions, atheism, and humanism
- Poetry, creativity, and sermon writing
- Pastoral care, including addiction/recovery, aging, death, and grieving
- Racial, political, and environmental justice
- Works by UUCM authors

If you are interested in volunteering in the library, we have several opportunities:

- Taking inventory and marking books by category
- Reshelving and general tidying
- Considering new purchases
- Finding ways to make the library a useful and comfortable part of our new home

Please talk to Kate Canan or Janet Dunstan if you would like to help out.

Happy reading!

Community Connections

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, August 5 at 10:45 AM
at UUCM - Squirrel Creek Road, Conference Room 129.**

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

SESSION 8 - RITUAL, WORSHIP, AND BELONGING

Purpose: UU Humanists occupy a distinctive position: they have left behind theistic belief but chosen to remain in—or seek out—a worshipping community, complete with chalice lightings, responsive readings, communal song, and seasonal rites. That choice is not accidental, and it deserves examination. Here's a brief article on the topic along with discussion questions: "Ritual, Worship & Belonging: Why they matter to UU Humanists."

Ritual, Worship and Belonging

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.)

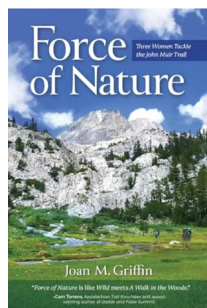
UUCM Book Group

THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 PM

AT UUCM SQUIRREL CREEK - ADMIN WING CONFERENCE ROOM
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:



August 25

Force of Nature: Three Women Tackle the John Muir Trail

Nonfiction by Joan Griffin

Read about three women who brave accidents and ferocious weather, while adopting another hiker abandoned by her partner along the trail.

395 pages

PLEASE NOTE:

For our August 25 meeting, local author Joan Griffin will join us to talk about her nonfiction book *Force of Nature: Three Women Hike the John Muir Trail*. **Due to limited seating, we'll take reservations starting the week before the meeting.**

UPCOMING BOOKS!

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.**

What Happens When Children Come to UUCM on Sunday?

By Lindsay Dunckel, Family Ministry Team

We all start out in the sanctuary together, and there is a cozy corner under the stairs in the back that has some books and drawing materials and quiet-time toys children can choose to use if they like. Usually, we sing, greet one another, listen to the land acknowledgement and chalice lighting and then the service leader opens the Wonder Box to see what's inside. It has in it a clue about the day's discussion on the theme – the very same theme that the Sunday service is based on.

This summer, the theme is
Building Beloved Community.

Children and teachers then leave the sanctuary with a lantern and the wonder box, heading for the kids' sanctuary toward the back of the campus. Of course, children are welcome to stay with their grown-up(s) in the service, or to bring their grown-up(s) with them - whatever feels most comfortable.

We have had children from eight months to thirteen years join us for our "One Room Schoolhouse" model of Kids' Connection; we try to have a little something for everyone. We start out building an altar together and talking about the items in the wonder box and how they might relate to the theme we are exploring. We light a chalice, share our joys and sorrows, and often read a story related to the theme.

When we're finished, we cross the hall to the Kids' Connection room where there are all kinds of toys, games, and art materials to explore. We offer the kids a snack - things like crackers, fruit, cheese –and some water. The kids select their own activities and teachers

circulate, building on their play, engaging them in conversation, weaving in talk about the values that UUs hold – interdependence, pluralism, justice, transformation, generosity, and equity are the grown-up vocabulary words, but we tend to break those into smaller pieces like sharing, connection, being true to yourself, having a growth mindset, being a good friend, taking care of the Earth. All with love at the center. Often, children get into discussions about some pretty big topics – death, racism, bullying. The teachers help them explore these kinds of ideas gently and skillfully.

When the first parent arrives to pick up a child, we form a circle and all say together, "Carry the flame of peace and love until we meet again." Then the kids put away one thing for each year of age – so a five year old puts away five things – and then families can join everyone for snacks and socializing in the social hall, or hang out in the backyard together where we have a corn hole toss and a table and chairs - and some pumpkins growing!

Questions about Kids' Connection?
Contact Lindsay at
familyministry@uugrassvalley.org.

– Lindsay





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

UUCM STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend Kevin Tarsa, *Minister*

Siobhan Boylan, *Office Administrator*

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Mountain Chalice Newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of the month prior to publishing.

Submit by filling out the online announcement form on our website, or here:

[Article Submission Form](#)

VOLUNTEER TEAM MEMBERS:

Kathryn Young, Design/Layout; Lesley Champlin and Patricia Wolfe, Editing/Proofreading