

# the Mountain Chalice



Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

September 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 ...

### SEPTEMBER THEME: BEGINNINGS

**Sept. 6** *Lady Liberty's Shackles: A tapestry of  
Compassion, Resistance and Resilience*  
Gail Johnson Vaughn and Viv Tipton,  
Worship Associates

*In 1964 Freedom Summer broke some of the links in the chains of voter suppression leading to the Civil Rights Act of 1965. Today we watch with dismay the escalating attacks on voting rights, especially but not exclusively voting rights for citizens of color. This dismay is not a passive response. UUCM is actively participating in Freedom Summer 2026, a major, nationwide mobilization of civil rights, labor, and community organizations launched in response to recent federal rollbacks on voting rights, including the Supreme Court's recent striking down of key parts of the 1965 Voting Rights Acts.*

*Join us for this moving service of stories, inspiration, hope and action.*

**Sept. 13** *Where Do We Come From?*  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Randy McKean,  
Worship Associate

*We start our theme of "beginnings" by tracing some of the roots of this Unitarian Universalist tradition that many of us claim as "home" and looking for the DNA we recognize within us. Knowing where we came from can help us know who we are and where we are going.*

**Sept. 20** *What Are We?*  
Rev. Kevin Tarsa with Lindsay Duncel,  
Worship Associate

*Trying to explain Unitarian Universalism is enough of a challenge to warrant a class on writing your own UU Elevator Speech. More important than being able to describe to others what this tradition and community are about, is having our own sense of what we are. What we are now.*

**Sept. 27** *Where Are We Going?*  
*You* with Rev. Kevin  
with Beth Karow, Worship Associate

*What would it mean, and what would it take, to look ahead with true openness?*

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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

### September 2026

We launch our new year of Soul Matters themes and congregational life with the theme of "beginnings." For UUCM, this takes on more meaning than simply the start of the congregation year. This community is moving not only into new physical space, but it is also just beginning to move into a new sense of itself.

My memories return to my first apartment, to various new homes, in new towns and new states. The newness always invites and supports new aspects of myself and new ways of being to surface. So, too, for UUCM.

As I noted in my August report to the Board:  
With more people gathered at a time in Sunday services, and so much more space and possibility, the congregation is needing to understand itself differently, to perceive its identity and its story anew, even as important threads of its identity and its mission carry through.

There is a certain compelling and dynamic energy to being a small, scrappy, resourceful community in which the meaningful stakes are smaller and rather immediate. There is also a compelling and dynamic energy to being a more

substantial, more resourced, while still resourceful community, but the human and institutional dynamics are different. The undulating waves are larger and longer, becoming more like ocean swells and less like choppy waves.

I am most accustomed to small and scrappy institutions, to the shorter, choppy Great Lakes waves which can make even well-seasoned ocean sailors seasick. I, too, need to adjust my perception, my story of UUCM, and my expectation of sustaining human dynamics and structures required, i.e., the

way things are done and how. This will be a time of discovery and learning for all of us.

Over the course of this September, and all year, really, we will ask ourselves, "Where do we come from?" "What are we?" and "Where are we going?"

Living into the answers will be the journey.

With care,

- Rev. Kevin





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

## Board of Trustees

### Teamwork

I wrote this letter of resignation to the Board and Nominating Committee last month as the formal process for giving up the second year of my term as Board President:

*"Having served as President for one year of a two-year term, I respectfully resign effective August 30, following the end of the Annual Community Business Meeting. This resignation is necessary so that I may be available to accept the nomination for the Board position of Treasurer. Gail Schulz, Treasurer, has completed two consecutive two-year terms in this position and is not permitted to serve another term in accordance with UUCM Bylaws. Due to my long-term service on the Finance Committee and background in Accounting and Finance, I am currently the only qualified and willing candidate the Nominating Committee identified. My resignation as President is for no other reason than to fill a vacant officer position that proved more difficult to fill than the position of President. It is my honor to serve in any position on the Board of Trustees where my service is needed."*

It's what a team player does. I grew up in a household of ten people. Everything ran smoothly because we all had our assigned tasks. The house rules were designed for keeping things neat and clean, minimizing structured time so there was plenty of time for free play. Individualism wasn't a concept in the Richey household. Once I started school, I learned to participate in team sports and continued to play on teams for over 30 years. It was in my upbringing, schooling, and play that I learned and treasured the value of teamwork. Yes, it's always nice to be recognized for individual accomplishments but the true joy was being together as a family or a team and accomplishing things together. It was always fun to play a different position or to do someone else's job to contribute to the greater good. It also increased one's value as skills and experiences were built.

Learning to be a team player also prepared me well for a career in management. I developed a great deal of confidence knowing that I did not have to do anything alone. I made a career out of taking on difficult assignments because I was confident that I could put together a team willing to work toward a common goal. Now, as a volunteer, I see all of the same successes playing out. The Board, committees, teams, and staff do what is best for the community as a whole. Empathy, patience, awareness, transparency, and connection are continually demonstrated through all of the various activities taking place at UUCM. It is truly inspiring to see the fruits of people working and playing together under the umbrella of a common mission and values.

To those of you who are currently contributing or have contributed to the success of UUCM through participation on a team, I hope you feel proud of your creations and your impact and have grown from the experience. To those thinking about joining a team, I encourage you to take a leap of faith and know that you will be well supported by your fellow explorers as you cultivate your strengths. We are resilient people with vision and energy, and it is good to be together at this time in this place.

*In service,  
- Carol*

### UUCM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**JULY 2025 - AUGUST 2026**

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Carol Richey  | President      |
| Jeff Gold     | Vice President |
| Gail Schulz   | Treasurer      |
| Lin Jovanovic | Secretary      |

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

September's theme "Beginnings" will guide both our services and Soul Matter Circles. Services will look at the roots of our Unitarian Universalist traditions which many of us claim as home, as well as what our personal sense of being part of this tradition means. Knowing where we came from helps us define who we are now and where we are going.

September also marks the beginning of Marlene Bottenfield's co-leading the Worship Team. Her deep thoughtfulness and clarity are already enriching our team. Viv Tipton and Sarah Joy Blum are stepping up as worship associates, and Rod Tayler is in the process of becoming one. We are grateful and extend a warm welcome to each one.

We look forward to greeting autumn with the newness of "beginnings." What might this mean for you in your life?

– Carol



## Endowment

Kathryn Young  
 Endowment Committee  
[Endowment@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Endowment@uugrassvalley.org)

### Simple Gifts Thank Yous

**Thank you to a whole lot of generous people who have sent in Simple Gifts for all sorts of reasons – honoring birthdays, anniversaries, losses of beloved friends, and just being generous.**

Due to a UUCM Endowment email address snafu, I did not receive notification of any Simple Gifts since last JANUARY!

I assumed that everyone was so busy donating to our Capital Campaign fund, that Endowment got swept by the wayside... Boy was I wrong!

So belated acknowledgement of so many wonderful generous people including

**George Dunstan, Corrie Silva, Anne Lyon, Lindsay Dunckel, Scottie Hart, Ruth Edwards, Jax Peigare, Charlene Dugan, Alec MacLean and Gene Gilligan.**

*The future of UUCM will be bright and strong for years to come!*



**Simple Gifts** are always a great way to honor special events in your life, or the passing of friends, family, and fellow UUCM-ers, or anything you feel like acknowledging with a special contribution.

We would love to talk with you about other kinds of Endowment Gifts, too. We have brochures and packets to give you more details on **Legacy Gifts**...please let us know if you would like one.



## 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)

## Imagine a Meditation Room/Chapel

By Rev. Kein Tarsa

As we've been getting to know the "music room," the small room between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall, it has given us the sense that the room could well serve as a meditation room/chapel - a quiet, grounded room in which to be still, to reflect, to share a meditation circle or a prayer circle, etc. The addition of the Memorial Tree already makes a move in this direction and the Singing Meditation and the Threshold Singers have already been blessing it with music.

To pursue this possibility of a Meditation Room/Chapel, the Arts and Aesthetics team and Rev. Kevin invite you to come imagine the possibilities together: What changes or additions, over time, would help that room to feel sacred, spiritual, and a beautiful and gentle container for solo and small group contemplation?

Join us for an open and joyful surfacing of the many possibilities and ideas, including yours! on

**Sunday, September 20, at 11:30 AM  
after the service,  
in the Music/Meditation/Chapel room**

If you cannot join us then, please share your ideas via email to [art@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:art@uugrassvalley.org) or [minister@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:minister@uugrassvalley.org)

From the pool of our collective vision and ideas, we will work with the facilities team to look for ways to move toward a space that will serve people's spirits increasingly well.



## 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)



## Membership

*Laura Harter*  
Chair, Membership Team  
[membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org)

My UUCM journey is taking a big turn. After five years, I am stepping down as Coordinator of the Greeting Team and as Chair of Membership. I'm also stepping down as Hospitality Coordinator now that we moved into Squirrel Creek. You may recall that I temporarily agreed to coordinate Hospitality when we went to two services in November. It was a busy time - not just because of two services or the winter holidays, but we also managed to buy a new building in December! I am grateful for all the ways we showed up to support one another and our guests through the uncertainty and all our various opinions over the past 10 months - it was a lot. November seems like ages ago and I am eager to take a breather and step back.

I will continue as Membership Team Chair through October. Discussions about the next steps for coordination and leadership of Hospitality, Greeting, and the Membership Team have begun. Over the next two months, I am excited to discuss how our congregation might rethink how we "do Membership." A big thank you to Membership Team members: Ruth Edwards, Susan Merrill, Jim Bair, and to Ministry Council and Rev. Kevin as we talk about what Membership at UUCM means in 2026 and beyond. Stay tuned for more info as the conversations and plans evolve.

I am happy to continue as an occasional greeter and kitchen volunteer. I will be part of the new Hospitality Team as we try Shared Leadership on for size. Ditto for the Greeting Team - I will always love the simplicity and ease of welcoming folks at the front door. Our greeters will be sharing and rotating simple coordination tasks which consist of sending reminders and sharing notes from our short check-in meetings every other month. The greeters are well set to make this easy-peasy.

I have gained more than I have given by supporting our Membership Team over these years. It was a wonderful way to learn about UU, to "do UU," and to connect with so many of you.

I look forward to providing updates on evolving thoughts and plans around our Membership Team over the next two months. If you want more info or want to help, reach out to [membership@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:membership@uugrassvalley.org)

*With appreciation and gratitude,*

*Laura*

**MEMBERSHIP TEAM:** Laura Harter, Chair,  
Jim Bair, Laurie Bell, Ruth Edwards, and Susan Merrill

## Hospitality Team

### What's Cooking?

*By Laura Harter, Hospitality Team Member*

Good times are coming as we turn the corner into autumn and thoughts turn to organizing a picnic on our grounds and firing up the grill for pancake breakfasts. What other ways might we gather in the kitchen? Baking cookies together? Sharing recipes? Midweek potluck? It's your kitchen and it's ready for action. Please reach out to [hospitality@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:hospitality@uugrassvalley.org) for ways to help or to share an idea or to ask questions about the kitchen.

We are pleased to report that an under-sink water heater for the sanitizer is coming soon - this will save water and bring us up to official standards without scalding folks at the sinks. A solid win-win! The plan to install the dishwashers from Church Street is delayed as it must fit into the larger picture of building and plumbing improvements. Patience is key. Fortunately, our sanitizer works great and we are excited by all of you who are learning to embrace it. It's a fun and busy hub.

The Hospitality Team can't thank you enough for your help with setup, cleanup, and your generous goodies for Sunday's Social Hour. The more the merrier - our festive gathering on Sundays couldn't happen without you. Here's the link to help: [Sunday Kitchen and Treat Sign Up](#). If signing up in advance gives you pause or causes trouble, we are happy to help. Feel free to pop in the kitchen.

Your kind support is such an easy and festive way to nurture our community. We look forward to it!

#### **HOSPITALITY TEAM:**

Shannon Dooley-Miller, Laura Harter, Leslie King,  
Viv Tipton, Joyce Wilson

If you have any questions, contact us at  
[hospitality@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:hospitality@uugrassvalley.org)



### *Nobody's Cat by Jennifer Dewey*

The trail up the mountain is steep and slippery with ankle-deep snow. My pack is full and the going is slow. I've been away from the shack for six months. The urge to get back is irresistible, and I do not resist.

A stop to take deep breaths and wipe clumps of snow off my shoulders. An owl hoots and I wait for a response. There isn't one. I hear the sharp, shrill cry of a bobcat, then the familiar howl of a coyote. Vole and mouse tracks form patterns on the surface of the snow, the comings and goings of hungry rodents.

The owl will have its meal, and maybe, if it's lucky, the coyote too, a morsel anyway, enough to stay alive another day.

Pines lean toward and away from each other, as if saying yes and no to closeness. Their black trunks are backlit from a sun low in the winter sky. Twilight is my favorite hour in the high mountains, a gentle time of stillness when animals active in the day change places with night hunters.

I get to the shack when night closes in and by the glow of my lantern I find my way to the front porch. The lantern swings in my hand and I raise it and see most of the porch boards are rotten. The door is warped and won't open. Squeezing through the cracks is hopeless so I consider bashing the door in with my boot. Not an option. Too violent.

The back door opens with a screech of wet wood on wet wood. The air inside is close with the stench of decay, a smothering, nearly unbreathable atmosphere. The lantern casts a long, eerie light on the floor. The wood is littered with animal droppings and stained from moisture leaking through the roof. Skittering sounds and squeaks come out of cracks in the walls, black slashes leading into hidden spaces.

I hear a faint meow coming from a shadowy corner. I think the meow comes from my ears adjusting to the altitude. It comes again. I know it's real, louder, and more distinct, a true cat's meow.

Impossible. How can there be a cat living in a freezing shack at 11,000 feet in the mountains?

I set the lantern on the table, there is only one, and drop my pack on the floor, waiting for another meow. A third meow breaks the silence, and I walk along the edge of the wall, stopping, then moving slowly, then walking again. No cat eyes, no sign of a living feline.

Three days pass. The shack is comfortable now, with candles and the bed made up. I dip an old string mop laced with mouse droppings in a pail of melted snow and clear the floor. A fire in the woodstove burns day and night. A tin cup filled with corn beef hash sits untouched under the table. I refresh it every morning, hoping the meow I heard is attached to a cat and not my imagination. On the fourth day I wake up, turn over on my side, and stare directly into the gold eyes of a dangerously thin cat. A quick glance tells me the tin cup is empty.

The cat is first to speak. With a barely open mouth it murmurs low and I reach with my hand, palm up so I don't scare it, and say, "Good morning. I see you've had breakfast."

A careful search of every cranny in the walls reveals piles of mouse bones, what the cat has been living on for weeks. How many weeks I'll never know. The point is, it's alive and though skinny, it has a positive attitude. From our first face to face meeting, we get along. I come in with loads of wood, and the cat is stretched out on a small rug in front of the stove. The cat sleeps all night on my empty pack. I let him out (by this time I know he's a him) first thing every morning, assuming this is when he does his business.

A couple of strays. This is what we are. I think about what to name him. I call him Nobody's Cat. He doesn't really belong to me. If he belongs to anyone, or anything, it's the shack.

The mountains green up with spring. The leaves on the aspens are shiny with sunlight. I take long walks on damp, pine needled trails, and Nobody's Cat walks alongside or follows at a discreet distance.

Nobody's Cat is a resourceful animal with a stout heart. Our friendship is true, and friends never abandon each other. Nobody's Cat will ride down the mountain in my pack when spring turns to summer and it's time to go home.

# Justice News and Activities

## BENDING THE ARC TASK FORCE

### What's So Special About our Postcards?

By Gail Johnson Vaughan

#### Personalized, handwritten cards get read!

The labels we attach tell voters:

- How to check to see if they are still registered
- Early voting dates
- Phone number and email address to contact their elections department for info on polling sites,
- Website to learn about who's on the ballot

Our handwritten information:

- Tells voters the issues at stake
- Points out the importance of voting early and in person
- Reminds voters they must bring photo ID to be allowed to vote
- Points out that the outcome of the election will impact their lives and their future
- Encourages them to vote the whole ballot. All the races will have impact on them, short and long term

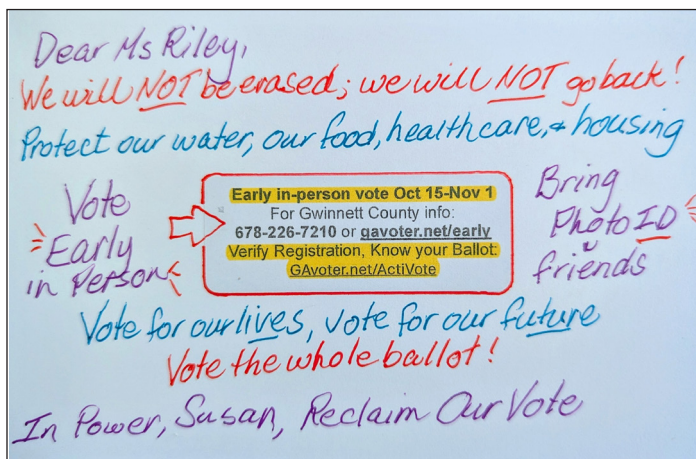
It will take resolve and courage to vote in the mid-terms. Our postcards let them know they have our support and gratitude.

Funds are still available for those who are unable to reimburse the cost of stamps and cards.

Join us! Pick up a packet in the foyer or Social Hall.

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

Below is a sample of a postcard which will be sent to Georgia:



## GREEN SANCTUARY TASK FORCE

### Introduces a New Service!

By Paul Elias, Green Sanctuary Task Force Member

The UUCM Green Sanctuary Committee is pleased to announce a new service that makes it easy to recycle your CRV beverage containers and support Interfaith Food Ministry (IFM), a UUCM Share-the-Plate recipient:

#### Bring your CRV containers to UUCM!

Whenever you come to the Squirrel Creek Campus (SCC), bring along the CRV beverage containers for which you paid a deposit. We take:

- Aluminum beverage cans
- Plastic soda and water bottles
- Beverage glass, including wine, juice and liquor bottles

PLEASE do not bring:

- Glass or plastic food containers
- Other household recycling

Leave your CRV containers at the newly designated **SCC Resource Recovery Depot** — aka the fenced/gated trash enclosure at the southwest end of the parking lot. Inside the "depot," you'll find a cart clearly marked CRV.

From there, the Green Sanctuary Team takes over. On the last Saturday of each month, we'll take our CRV bounty to Peace Lutheran Church, where it will be sorted and the proceeds donated to Interfaith Food Ministry. *Thanks!*

## ...& UUCM's Recycling Plastic Film

# Justice News and Activities

## Share the Plate

UUCM's July *Share the Plate* partner, [Hospitality House](#), will receive \$1,112 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 August partner, [Interfaith Food Ministry](#).



Our September *Share the Plate* partner will be [Bear Yuba Land Trust](#). That organization protects and defends the lands in the Bear and Yuba River watersheds.

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

### THE VOTES ARE IN:

*The congregation has chosen our Share the Plate organizations for 2026-2027 and here they are:*

Bear River Land Trust • Greensleeves • Sierra Streams  
Color Me Human • Immigrant Rights Network  
Nevada County Pride • FREED Center for Independent Living  
Gold Country Senior Services • Spirit Center • Sierra Roots  
*Hospitality House and Interfaith Food Network are permanent partners, so only 10 are voted on.*  
*Bear Yuba Land Trust is our September partner, the other months' partners have not yet been decided.*



## 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
- **New** 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*



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

### SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

IFM needs holiday food items such as canned green beans, cranberry sauce, gravy, yams, etc. As always, we need macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, pasta sauce, ramen noodles, canned vegetables, clean grocery bags, and egg cartons.

**"DRIVE THRU FOOD DRIVE" AT TWIN CITIES CHURCH  
EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**

**Friday, September 25, from 8:00 to 10:30 AM.**

11726 Grass Valley Hwy., Grass Valley

Food can always be dropped at IFM. Volunteer your time and help local families, seniors, and individuals experiencing food insecurity. Financial contributions are always 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 or Karl Snyder 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, Sept. 26, 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



# 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).

**ONE SUNDAY SERVICE - 10:00 AM -**

**IN PERSON AND ZOOM AND FAMILY MINISTRY**

## Make Connections at UUCM

*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](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.



### ARTS & CRAFTS CIRCLE

**EVERY FRIDAY, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

**AT UUCM - SQUIRREL CREEK RD.**

[arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:arts-n-crafts@uugrassvalley.org)

Come and meet with other UUs 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.)

### 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 SOCIAL HALL**

**Our next meeting is Monday, September 14 at 6:00 PM.**

After our potluck, Sarah, Herbalist and friend of Reine, will present a plant spirit meditation with tea, and talk about the herbs. Simple, sweet and grounding.

Look for updates and RSVP your potluck items 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).

## 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)



## HUMANISM DISCUSSION GROUP

**SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:45 AM**

**Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9 at 10:45 AM at UUCM Squirrel Creek, Conference Room 129.**

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

### SESSION 7 - MORTALITY, GRIEF AND CARE

#### *Purpose and Framing:*

*UU Humanists face mortality, grief, and caregiving without the traditional consolations many spiritual traditions offer: no promise of reunion beyond death, no assurance that suffering serves a hidden divine plan, no guaranteed afterlife to soften the fact of loss. And yet Humanists die, grieve, and care for the dying and the grieving with as much depth and seriousness as any theistic tradition — arguably because the absence of a guaranteed cosmic resolution makes the human work of presence, meaning-making, and mutual obligation more urgent, not less.*

*Here's a brief article - along with discussion questions.*

[Mortality, Grief and Care](#)

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. 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.)

# Community Connections

## Choir Rehearsals Starting Again!

UUCM is proud to announce that Ingrid Holman has been hired to be our Choir Director! She will begin with weekly rehearsals on Tuesday, September 1 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Sanctuary. The choir will sing on the last Sunday service of each month.

Ingrid writes, "Most of us sing happily in the shower, the car and with the congregation during a service, but would you consider joining our UU choir? We would like to invite you regardless of your past singing experience. Revive your voice! I am thankful for having the opportunity to direct the choir again and to be part of the UUCM community. I am looking forward to another round of singing with you."

Questions? Email Ingrid at [Choir@uugrassvalley.org](mailto:Choir@uugrassvalley.org).

**CHOIR REHEARSALS WITH INGRID HOLMAN:**  
Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM

**STARTING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026**  
**PERFORMANCE ON LAST SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH**

*All singers are welcome!*

## UUCM Campout Fun!



## August 2026 Camping Trip

The annual UUCM camping at Plumas Eureka State Park was great! We had a lot of fun with hiking, swimming, eating s'mores, potlucks, sing-a-longs and LOT of conversations. If you missed out, we hope to see you there next year!

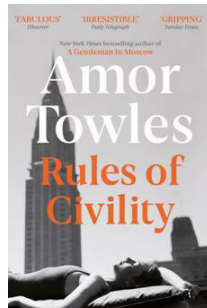


## UUCM Book Group

**THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5:30 PM**  
**AT UUCM SQUIRREL CREEK - ADMIN WING CONFERENCE ROOM**  
[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:



**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.

### UPCOMING BOOKS!

**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**

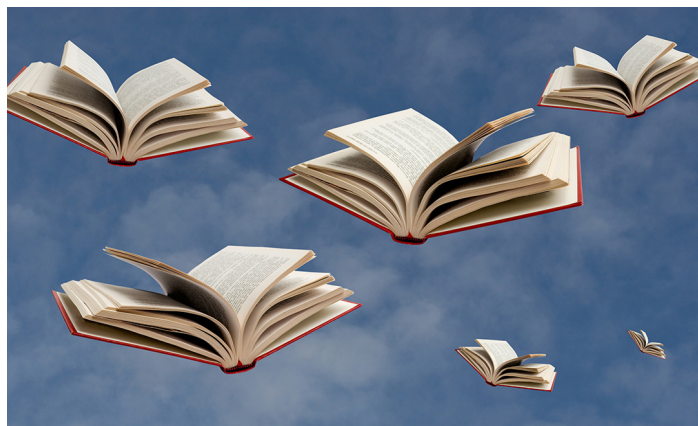
**Second Nature: A Gardener's Education** by Michael Pollan  
Essays that capture the rhythmic nature of our everyday engagement with the outdoors. 320 pages.  
Facilitated by Cheryl B.

### [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*

In Kids' Connection each Sunday, we follow along with the monthly themes that guide the worship services and, for those who are in a Soul Matters circle, the packets of materials to explore in small groups. We do all of this through our subscriptions to Soul Matters, a company founded by a UU minister that creates this content for use in UU communities. This year, we are also subscribing to Soulful Home, a packet that offers readings, games, viewings, and activities for families to do together to explore the month's theme. Each month, we will offer some of those resources here in the Mountain Chalice, and others will be sent directly to parents and caregivers in the UUCM community.

Research has shown that parents are their children's primary source of spirituality education, even - or maybe especially? - when they attend religious services. It is a big and daunting job! But you are not alone! Soulful Home's tagline is "Finding the sacred in everyday spaces" - and they offer things that you can weave through daily life without stressing that spirituality education is now something else you have to take on!

September's theme is "Beginnings" - one most families can feel in their bones this time of year, with the return to school, the new classrooms, new teachers, new routines. One idea for diving into this theme with your family is to decorate a "Family Question Jar" and drop in some questions that can be read out to be answered by everyone at some mealtimes. Below are some suggested questions to help your family dive into the theme of beginnings, but dreaming up the questions might be a fun family activity, too!

- \* What is something new you have started that felt scary at first but turned out to be really good?

- \* If you could have a "fresh start" with one thing this week, what would it be?
- \* What do you think makes a beginning feel exciting? What makes it scary?
- \* What's the best way to help others feel like they belong when they are new?
- \* When have you made a mistake and gotten a chance to start over? How did it feel to get that fresh start?
- \* If our family could start one new tradition this year, what would you want it to be? Why would that tradition be important to you?
- \* If today was the very beginning of your own adventure story, what would the first chapter be called?

- \* Sometimes beginnings happen because we choose them, and sometimes they happen because life changes. Can you think of a beginning that surprised you?
- \* Beginnings are exciting because there is a lot to look forward to, but they are also sad because we often have to let go of what was. What is something from your summer that you are sad about saying goodbye to?
- \* When reading books, what do you like the best: the beginnings or the endings?
- \* Have you ever been surprised by an ending that turned out to also be a beginning?
- \* Are you somebody who wants everything to be just right before you begin something new or somebody who is fine with "jumping in" and figuring things out as you go?



One thing in the Kids' Corner Sunday ritual that the children really get into is the creation of an altar. Perhaps this is something you can try at home (and I know from your children that some of you already do this). There may be a little shelf or table where together you could create a sacred space to lift up things you hold to be precious, of worth, holy, or deserving notice or devotion. What would you put on an altar devoted to the theme of Beginnings?

Questions about Kids' Connection?  
Contact Lindsay at  
[familyministry@uugrassvalley.org](mailto: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](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**

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

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(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*