



Volume 3
October 16, 2026

A Place for You

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Join Us for Workdays Every Third Saturday!

We are carrying on UUCM's long tradition of holding a monthly workday. Every task, large or small, helps us maintain and improve our new home—and saves us money!

No need to be a skilled handyman or experienced gardener. Everyone is welcome to join us the third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (**October 17**, November 21, December 19). We also appreciate donated snacks.

During our September workday, volunteers trimmed bushes, cleared brush, vacuumed chairs in the sanctuary, repaired toilets, and more. A big thanks to the entire crew!

Landscaping Updates

In early November, concrete will be poured in the dirt patch in front of the Social Hall. This will create more space for outdoor seating and remove a trip hazard.

In addition to working to keep our property fire safe and attractive, the Landscape and Grounds Team has visions of creating a Nisenan garden, a picnic area, walking trails, and a labyrinth. Everyone is welcome to join the team. For more information, contact **Marlene Bottenfield** or **Shannon Dooley-Miller**.



Gail Johnson Vaughan



Bodhi Busick and Ryan Fonbuena



Laura Harter



Questions or Comments for the Facilities Committee?
Contact us at FPC2@uugrassvalley.org.



Adventures in Plumbing

One of the biggest challenges our 50-year-old building has presented involves the drain lines and septic system. We have experienced a number of toilet clogs and overflows, and extensive time and effort has gone into diagnosing the exact problem. This hands-on effort has been led by **Alec MacLean** (thank you, Alec!). After much work, Alec and our plumber determined that the drain line that serves much of the building contains multiple dips and was originally installed with insufficient slope. In early October, with the Facilities Committee's approval, our plumber installed an electric pump, which should keep things flowing.

We also completed major improvements to the lid and risers of our main septic tank, so there is no longer a danger of the lid falling in and possibly taking an animal with it.



Toilet maestro Paul Elias at work.



Andy Dooley-Miller, Gwen Eymann, and Heidi-Lynn Tayler consider coat hook choices.

Coat Room: Just in Time for Winter!

The Coat/AV/Infant Room near the Sanctuary entrance is getting a makeover! New wall-mounted hooks along two walls will hold 40 to 50 coats, and a sturdy, expandable rack will take the overflow on busy Sundays.

For parents with little ones, **Martha Turner** has kindly donated two comfortable easy chairs, and a new screen means you can follow the service on the screen or through the window, whichever you like.

The AV equipment is staying in the room but will sit out of sight behind a curtain.

Music Room

The room between the Social Hall and the Sanctuary is being reimagined as a shared space that works for both small musical events and quiet reflection. This could involve a rug, acoustic panels, window coverings, and more. The Facilities Committee has had a lot of valuable input and will share a detailed plan soon.

