
WORSHIP SERVICES

October Theme: BELONGING

Sunday, Oct 6, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

Belonging to Our Histories

We celebrate the importance of telling our own stories and retelling the history of the families and communities we belong to. The Ceremony of Stones of Forgiveness will offer a chance to reflect on past disappointments, to allow us to resolve to renew our relationship to life and to those to whom we belong. Led by **Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles**.

Music is led by **Sarah Jebian**, Director of Music, and the congregation is the choir! **Justin Furnia**, piano.

Chalice Chapel—On the first Sunday of each month, children in K through 5th grade gather in Founders Hall for worship where they will sing, share, and create together. Nursery care for infants—4-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

Sun, Oct 13, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

Who Belongs Here?

Rev. Linda reflects on the question of people “belonging” to a place, critiquing a Columbus-discovered-America view of this land, and looking over the history of who has dwelt on UUCR land throughout history.

(continued on page 2)

Quest

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Rockville:
A Welcoming Congregation*

Lifelong Spiritual Discovery Beloved Community A Just World

Volume LXIII, Number 2
October 2, 2019

Editor & Publisher:
Adrian L. H. Graham

In the Interim...

by the Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles

The theme of the month of October is “Belonging”—a really rich and deep concept. We all need to feel a sense of belonging, and we know when we are missing it! I invite you to take a look at your lives, at this congregation and its relationships within and without. What does it really mean to belong at UUCR, in Rockville, in the US, in the world?

Leaders at UUCR who are helping me in the interim work we have to do this year will be asking as many people as possible questions like: *When do you feel like you belong?* Or, *What makes you feel like you don't belong?* *What could we do to help more people feel like they belong?* These are very important questions for everyone to explore, since the answers will impact planning for the kind of ministry this congregation really needs and wants for its next era. As you all look ahead—not just for yourselves, but for the congregation yet to be, remember the words of Elie Wiesel:

*“Our lives no longer belong to us alone;
they belong to all those who need us desperately.”*



Quest deadline: Thursday, **October 24, 2019** at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on **November 6, 2019**.
Email to quest@uucr.org

Quest

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Congregation of Rockville**
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Associate Minister: Rev. Rebekah A. Savage

Director of Religious Education: Carla Miller

Director of Music: Sarah Jebian

Director of Communications & Membership:

Adrian L. H. Graham

Church Administrator: Donna Taylor

RE & Youth Assistant: Anne Chernikoff

Pianist: Justin Furnia

Building Sexton: Justin Onyeador

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(Worship Services continued from page 1)

Very special music is offered by the UUCR house band **Bonfire of the Mannakees**; **Justin Furnia**, piano.

First Fifteen—Three to four Sundays a month, all ages* join in worship in the Sanctuary for the “First Fifteen” minutes, after which those in K through 5th grade follow their teachers to their classrooms. Parents of K through 3rd grade are asked to sign their children out from classes ten minutes after the end of worship; children in 4th grade and up will be dismissed to find their parents at the end of class. *Nursery care for infants—4-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, October 20, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

On the Margins

Rev. Linda is joined by a **Combined Choir** of 70 voices (from UUCR and Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church) sharing stirring music and inspiring words to remind us of our calling to live our faith in appreciation of all voices, including those which have historically been placed on the margins of our experience.

Justin Furnia, piano.

First Fifteen—see above.

Sunday, October 27, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Samhain / Halloween

Rev. Rebekah Savage, Carla Miller, and Sarah Jebian join together to share a delightful and meaningful multigenerational celebration of the season.

Special music by **Tigre Cruz** and **Julianne Kapner**, percussion.

Multigenerational Service—All* gather together in the Sanctuary for this service. *Nursery care for infants—4-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

November Theme: ATTENTION

Sunday, November 3, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

All Souls: Paying Attention to the Ancestors

We invite everyone to bring a photo of those in their families who have died, to put on a community altar we will create for the service. We will also read the names of UUCR members now gone. Led by **Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles**.

Special music by **Chelle Fulk**, violin; **Justin Furnia**, piano.

Chalice Chapel—see above.

FAITH FORMATION

Reflections... Family Faith Formation

by Carla Miller, Director of Religious Education



Families Belong at UUCR, and Belong Together

As we explore this month's theme of "Belonging," I wonder what our families with children and youth need to feel they belong and matter in this beloved community?

UUCR open-heartedly welcomes and includes children and youth. We know that this requires intention, it doesn't just happen. Our growing focus on engaging families as *units* also requires intentionality, and the engagement of the whole congregation. It may be a new take, a slight shift in the culture. If you stay tuned in, you will notice an ongoing and growing energy for family ministry!

Families' lives these days are complex and electronics-filled. Church is a place that the whole family comes together, to unplug, let go of other demands, and *be*.

Families come here yearning for a community of families and time together as a family, to share their stories, to connect through shared values, and to build a network of mutual support for themselves and their kids. We are planning many ways to do this:

- Family FUUn, in a new form on the first Sunday of the month during Middle Hour, will bring together a multigenerational group to play, create, connect and grow. This is our trial run. Try it!
- *ArtsConnect* this fall will offer a collaborative art project focused on family heritage and identity; a great opportunity to strengthen family identity, and to connect in community.
- Family potlucks take place after the second service on the second Sunday of the month beginning October 13. Volunteer to supervise set-up, clean-up, and lock-up one Sunday.
- The UUCR playground! Please know that all are invited to stop by to visit, bridging the gap between parents and non-parents. Thanks to those who roll out coffee and snacks.

Parents need support apart from their children at church as well:

- Childcare during adult programs supports parents' involvement in this congregation.
- Event organizers—please request childcare when you reserve space. RSVP's for childcare are needed no less than one week in advance.
- Parenting classes like one offered last spring, and OWL parent discussions are valued.

Families belong in worship together, too:

- Children and youth who do not feel at home in services will become adults who do not feel at home in a UU congregation.
- Their presence in worship is the vibrancy of our present, and future of our faith.
- Let them know you are happy to see them!

Parents still want a liberal religious learning environment for their children, though increasingly for themselves as well. They realize that faith formation is a shared journey, and that their own journey is supported and enlivened here as much as their children's.

The Family Faith Formation team and I hope to spark conversations with you about our shared ministry to families. We have some thoughts I've expressed here. You will have more! Please share them with **Sarah Appleby, Tom Bozzo, Ginny Folsom, Chris Julka, Karen Pittleman**, and me. And we will continue to reach out to all of you.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Introducing Coming to the Table (CTTT)

by Fran Lowe, Racial Justice Working Group

CTTT: A new program sponsored by the Racial Justice Working Group

What: Facilitated conversations of respectful and honest sharing to promote healing from racism's harm and to support racial reconciliation.

Who: All those interested in developing deeper understanding, empathy, and meaningful connections in the context of issues of race.

When: Monthly discussions on the first Monday of the month, starting November 4.

Background: facilitation training; first CTTT conversation.



It was wonderful to see so many (40 people) at our early September Facilitation Training: Creating a Safe and Brave Space for Sharing, Authenticity, Honesty and Compassion. Professional facilitator and coach Althea Shiplett taught lots of useful strategies and processes for spiritual or faith-based facilitation. Guests, Jane Carrigan and Thornell Jones from the UU Church of Annapolis, shared their wisdom as well. All are experienced Coming to the Table facilitators.

Following this we watched the documentary *Traces of the Trade: A Story From the Deep North* together and held our first CTTT conversation. Jane and Thornell generously returned to UUCR to facilitate and coach us through this conversation, which focused on reparations.



MORE INFO on CTTT: You can check online at <https://comingtothetable.org/>; or come talk to us at the Racial Justice table during Middle Hour on Sunday mornings. Our members include **Nancy Spencer, Hellen Oketch, Fran Lowe, Julie Robinson, Marie Reed, and Rev. Rebekah.**



SHARING THE MINISTRY

Spotlight on...Belonging

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

A couple of weeks ago, I organized a group of choir members from UUCR and UU Fairfax to see *Dear Evan Hansen* at the Kennedy Center. It's a beautiful show and one that made me "ugly cry" both times I saw it. *Dear Evan Hansen* tells the story of a young man with severe social anxiety disorder who so yearns to make a connection with his peers that he fabricates a relationship with a deceased student to become closer to the boy's family. It's a small cast - only eight characters total - and what struck me most was that even though all 8 of these characters have (or develop) emotional connections with each other, they each feel desperately alone. In fact, it's Evan's lie that ends up bringing everyone together in a strange way. I could identify with each character on that stage. I often feel like I'm part of the crowd but not necessarily making a deep connection. As I've talked about this feeling with some of my closest friends, I have been amazed to find out that they all feel the same way too! That we're here, but not here. That we're noticed, but not really seen. The opening lyrics in the Act I finale "You Will Be Found" (which our UUCR choir performed last year!) are:

"Have you ever felt like nobody was there? Have you ever felt forgotten, in the middle of nowhere? Have you ever felt like you could disappear, like you could fall, and no one would hear?"

My answer to that is a hard yes. And I wonder, my dear ones, do you feel that way too? Our worship theme for October is "Belonging." As I ponder this theme and work with our ministers to choose music to support our worship time together, I can't help but think of Evan Hansen and the lengths to which he was willing to go to connect with other people. I also think of the text in the second verse of "You Will Be Found":

*"Well, let that lonely feeling wash away. Maybe there's a reason to believe you'll be okay.
'Cause when you don't feel strong enough to stand, you can reach, reach out your hand. And oh, someone will come running and I know they'll take you home."*

May UUCR be a place where you are truly seen, where you find deep connections with friends and with the Divine Spirit, and where you feel "found".

With love,

Sarah



SHARING THE MINISTRY

Communal Drumming Returns to UUCR!

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

In the drum circle we discover how deeply connected we really are. Grooving together, our individuality finds expression within the whole, free of conflict or compromise. And it's really FUN!!! If you've ever tapped your foot to a song on the radio, you have all the rhythm you need to share in the healing power of communal drumming. No experience is required and you need not bring a drum (though by all means bring one or any other percussion instrument if you choose). Children under age 12 should be accompanied by an adult. Children under age 7 may not find communal drumming engaging, but are welcome to try it out. Come groove with us on first Wednesday of each month beginning October 2 (exception: January 8) from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Rooms 52-53.



The Drum Circle will be led by percussionist Roy Mueller of the Sugarloaf Congregation of Unitarian Universalists. Contact Roy for more info.

ArtsConnect Returns with “Race and #RealTalk”

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

ArtsConnect at UUCR returns with an exciting year of programming ahead. Our theme this season is "The Power of We" - inspired by the UUA's General Assembly. The season begins with a free 6-part workshop series conducted by singers from *ArtsConnect's* featured musical group - the HALO barbershop quartet, starring UUCR's own Niambi Powell! HALO's workshop series entitled "Race and #RealTalk" is a music-based experience confronting racism and social issues in the United States with healthy dialogue around the topic "Immigration: Engaging Across Political Perspectives". Space is limited to 30 participants. Must be 18 or older to participate. Open to the public so please invite friends and family - especially if they have different beliefs and viewpoints than your own! [Learn more and sign up today!](#)

Save the Date

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

ArtsConnect continues on November 3 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a special visual art workshop led by local Rockville artist [Rosana Azar](#). Rosana will lead community members of all ages in exploring their own family history and will help us create a beautiful piece of art together. You do not need any artistic experience or particular talent to participate. We especially encourage families with youth and young children to attend. This event is open to the public and free of cost. Donations are welcome to assist in covering the cost of supplies.

The main *ArtsConnect* event will happen on Sunday, December 15 with an art reception beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by HALO in concert at 7:00 p.m. This promises to be a very special evening. Don't miss it! Look for more information about *ArtsConnect* in future editions of *Quest*, *UUCR E-weekly*, and [on our website](#).

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Thinking of You

compiled by Judy Eisenhauer and Staff on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team

John Dunbar is recuperating after hip surgery in late September. We wish him a speedy recovery.

All are welcome to attend a celebration of **Jewell Golden's** life at UUCR on Sunday, October 27, at 2:00 p.m.

Please contact **Judy Eisenhauer** with any joys, concerns, or accomplishments you would like to share in this column.



Pastoral Care at UUCR

by Jane Klag, Pastoral Care Team

We have a Pastoral Care Team at UUCR! Our small team pays attention to the needs of the congregation. We assess what we can do to help at difficult times. We provide food, rides to the doctor, child care support, cards and calls to those needing an ear to listen. We connect with those who are not here on Sunday mornings. We do what we can and help with referrals to community support. It is not just the team that helps the congregation, it is everyone in our community. If you can give an hour to help with rides, meals, calls and visits, we will have an opportunity to sign up at the Activities Fair on October 13, or you can contact Rev. Rebekah or Rev. Linda. Caring for one another is how we live our faith. It is a spiritual practice. As we care for one another, we keep the web of congregational life strong.



SHARING THE MINISTRY



The child does not yet know what belongs and what does not: therefore for her all things belong.

The ear of the child is open to all music. Her eyes are open to all arts. Her mind is open to all tongues. Her being is open to all manners.

In the child's country, there are no foreigners.

Kenneth L. Patton

Where you belong
is where you choose
to constantly show up.

Karina Antonopoulos



SHARING THE MINISTRY

New2UU (and NotSoNew, Too...)

by Adrian Graham, Director of Communications & Membership

Our **Fall New2UU series** will be offered in three Thursday night sessions from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (October 17, October 24, and November 7). This class is a great way to get your toes wet and learn about our faith tradition broadly speaking, as well as our particular expression of it here at UUCR. Those who are interested in joining the congregation as members will be invited to do so after completing these three sessions, and will be formally welcomed into membership on Sunday, November 14.

For those longtime UUCR folks who are NotSoNew and may have been contemplating a shift from *congregant* to *member*, this is also a great opportunity to you to deepen your engagement with your chosen faith community. As we reflect on this month's spiritual theme of "Belonging," what does it mean to belong to UUCR? Let's chat about it!

As always, I can be reached at agraham@uucr.org.

In faith,

Adrian



CONGREGATION WORKS

Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.—INTERIM KICK-OFF!

Join Rev. Linda and families, members, and friends for an important, fun, and interactive exploration of the history of UUCR, and of what people have most loved about being at UUCR. All ages are invited to participate!



Fall Town Hall Meeting

by Mary Carvajal, UUCR Board President

Please join us for the Fall Town Hall Meeting on **Sunday, October 6** during Middle Hour. We will give updates on congregational goals and activities, and discuss plans for evaluating the two services schedule. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Please feel free to contact me at president19-20@uucr.org with any questions or concerns.

CONGREGATION WORKS

Board Adopts New Operating Budget

by Christy Shannon, Treasurer

On June 18, 2019, the Board of Trustees approved UUCR's new operating budget for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2019. Operating expenses increase by 0.1% to \$789,383. UUCR's operating income is estimated to be \$757,682, leaving a shortfall of \$31,701. This deficit was expected due to the fact that UUCR employs both a full-time Interim Minister and a full-time Associate Minister. Also, congregational pledging has lagged recently, falling by \$11,158 to \$567,709 this year.

Here is a summary of the Board's operating budget by major expense category:

Category	FY 2018-19 Budget	FY 2019-20 Budget	Change
Payroll	\$503,046	\$511,802	2%
Buildings & Grounds	\$138,825	\$136,215	-2%
Mortgage	\$53,507	\$53,507	0.0%
Denominational Dues	\$28,230	\$31,517	12%
Committees	\$23,355	\$21,973	-6%
Office Expenses	\$19,420	\$20,370	5%
Social Justice	\$12,950	\$10,000	-23%
Miscellaneous	\$2,250	\$4,000	78%
Total Expenses	\$781,582	\$789,383	1%

In the chart above, there are three significant changes to Denominational Dues, Social Justice, and Miscellaneous. After the UUA changed the way they calculated dues, UUCR had dropped to paying 73% of the amount the UUA requested. The Board increased our UUA funding back to 80% this year. Due to changes at our Partner Church, we will no longer be continuing our relationship with them. The Board also allocated money to search for our new called minister in the miscellaneous category.

Due to continuing deficits over the past three years, the Board worked diligently to keep expenses as low as possible and still maintain programs at an acceptable level. The Board has established a new Rental Committee to increase income to avoid the need to pull from reserves to cover our expenses. In addition, the Board wants to have an active Stewardship Committee. Please let us know if you would be interested in being involved in this important committee.

If you wish to learn more about UUCR's operating budget or if you have questions about UUCR finances, please feel free to [contact me](#) or Finance Committee Chair [Bill Newhouse](#).



CONGREGATION WORKS

Boundless Opportunities for Engagement and Enrichment at UUCR

by Mark Shannon, Lay Minister

Come join the fun! Help with an event or an activity! Get some exercise! Meet new people! We need your talents!

Have you ever wondered how to get more involved at UUCR? How to help some of the wonderful activities that occur throughout the year at UUCR? While our staff are remarkable, we, as members, need to support our ongoing activities which are essential to ensure that UUCR continues to fulfill its mission to *Practice Courageous Love*.

At this time, UUCR needs volunteers to support the following upcoming committees and activities:

- 1) **Harvest Bazaar: November 9.** Colleen Dolak is organizing the Fall Fundraiser this year, and she could use a co-chair and needs additional volunteers to help.
- 2) **Canvass Team:** Colleen Dolak has stepped in as Canvass chair this year. Please thank her when you see her! Colleen could use a co-chair and is looking for additional volunteers to help support Canvass preparation and the annual pledge drive.
- 3) **Action Auction:** Our wonderful Spring Fundraising drive needs a new chair or co-chair, and additional volunteers. We have a wonderful committee already in place, and volunteers who have supported this event over the last couple of years. However, we need an additional volunteer to lead and volunteers to support the event.
- 4) **Beacon House** representative.
- 5) **LGBTQ Task Group** leader.
- 6) **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** representative.
- 7) **Stewardship Committee** chair or co-chair.
- 8) **Pastoral Care Team** co-chair.

If you are interested in any of these specific opportunities, please reach out to the following contacts for more details:

- ⇒ For Fall Fundraiser or Canvass: **Colleen Dolak**
- ⇒ For Action Auction: **Carolyn Randall**

For all other opportunities, contact the Lay Ministry Council:

- ⇒ **Terrie Barr**
- ⇒ **Mark Shannon**
- ⇒ Or please drop by the Lay Ministry table during Middle Hour on any Sunday for more details.



Quest

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Unitarian Universalist Principles

As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

In addition to these Seven Principles drawn from the Principles and Purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), we as a congregation have also elected to affirm and promote a proposed Eighth Principle:

- Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Our Mission and Vision

The mission and vision of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville is to
Practice Courageous Love.

Our Values

Lifelong Spiritual Discovery ~ Beloved Community ~ A Just World