
WORSHIP SERVICES

March Theme: WISDOM

Sun., March 8, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

CANVASS SUNDAY: BOLD JOURNEY,
SAFE HARBOR

The Choices We Make

The ministers and leaders of UUCR invite everyone to join in this important service, to consider how very important it is that we be aware of the power of the choices we make. How we spend our money and our time matters. Choose love, choose generosity, and discover the wisdom of those choices. Led by **Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles & Rev. Rebekah Savage**.

Special music by **Bronson Hoover. 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.

Sun., Mar 15, 9 & 11:15 a.m.
Wisdom?

March 15 is International “Everything You Think Is Wrong Day”.

(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 7
March 4, 2020

Editor & Publisher:
Adrian L. H. Graham

In the Interim...

by the Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles



March is a time of transition in our natural world – Spring arrives! And in our human world, we have the time change (Spring Forward), and Super Tuesday primaries throughout the nation. At UUCR, as well, March is a month for becoming aware of all the transitions and preparations for springing forward. It is a very good month for us to consider the theme of the month – Wisdom. It will take wisdom and

insight to help us be present and responsive.

It is our Canvass month. I look forward to the joy of community with many of you at the March 7 Fellowship Dinner, and the inspiration of commitment at Canvass Sunday March 8 (the first day of daylight savings time!). Things are strong at UUCR, and great possibilities are blooming in your congregation, so this is the month to make as generous a pledge as you can to support the ongoing journey in the coming year.

On March 22 (the first day of spring!), the congregation will have the chance to say “Thank you, and goodbye” to Donna Taylor, UUCR’s Congregation Administrator for the past eight years. She will be at both services, and we will have a reception in her honor during the Middle Hour. Join in!

And throughout March, the Minister Selection Team will be listening to UUCR leaders and members, doing the important work of discerning the best path forward in choosing who to invite to be a candidate for the Senior Minister position.

(continued on page 5)

Quest deadline: Thursday, **March 19, 2020** at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on **April 1, 2020**.
Email to quest@uucr.org

Quest

**Unitarian Universalist
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 (outgoing)

Congregation Administrator:

JeKaren Olaoya (incoming)

RE & Youth Assistant: Aiden Chernikoff

Pianist: Justin Furnia

Building Sexton: Justin Onyeador

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(Worship Services continued from page 1)

As we contemplate our spiritual theme of the month, *Wisdom*, where is there room for—gasp! - new learning, unlearning, re-learning about ourselves, our faith, and our world? Playful humility guides our way.

The UUCR Choir will sing. **Justin Furnia**, piano.

First Fifteen—see above.

Sunday, March 22, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Looking Back from (Nearly) Eighty

A reflection from member **Jim Blue** who reports “I’ve been around for nearly 80 years. Surely I’ve learned something—surely I have gained some wisdom. Well, maybe. Knowledge and wisdom are not the same thing.”

Special music by **Sonaria**.

First Fifteen—see above.

Sunday, March 29, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Drawing the Circle Wide—Who’s in Your Circle?

Each Sunday, we make a welcome statement in our worship service—but does everyone who comes through our doors actually feel that sense of welcoming of their whole person? Join us for this very unique worship service where we will use art and conversation to explore the idea of what welcome truly means in a beloved community. Led by **Rev. Linda, Carla Miller** (Director of Religious Education), and **Sarah Jebian** (Director of Music) with music provided by **Justin Furnia** on piano.

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.

April Theme: LIBERATION

Sunday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Celebration Sunday

As we begin the monthly theme of *Liberation*, **Rev. Linda, Adrian Graham** (Director of Communications & Membership), and UUCR leaders invite you to welcome new members in this service that celebrates our community, the results of the Canvass, and the power of joy—which can heal us and free us to fulfill our promises and potential.



ANNUAL CANVASS

The 2020 Canvass—“Brave Journey, Safe Harbor”

by Karl Irikura, Canvass Cochair

We are all on life journeys, sailing into unknown waters to face stormy weather.

UUCR community is our safe harbor, where we restock, repair, and prepare for the next adventures and challenges. Having such a safe haven gives us courage, and companions to venture far from shore. Learning how to be our best selves gives us resilience to navigate the storms that life brings to us and to others.

We return to harbor enriched by our journey and by our shared stories.

We make the harbor safe by being loving and mindful of each other. We make the harbor bountiful by our many wonderful activities and the blessings it provides. Which come to your mind?

I think of our caring, competent, and hard-working staff; Religious Education for children and youth (this next year will include Coming of Age and a Boston Trip for Middle School Youth); Sunday worship and fellowship; Music and Arts; Small Group Ministry; Adult Faith Formation programs; beautiful spaces indoors and out; Social Justice activities; and more.

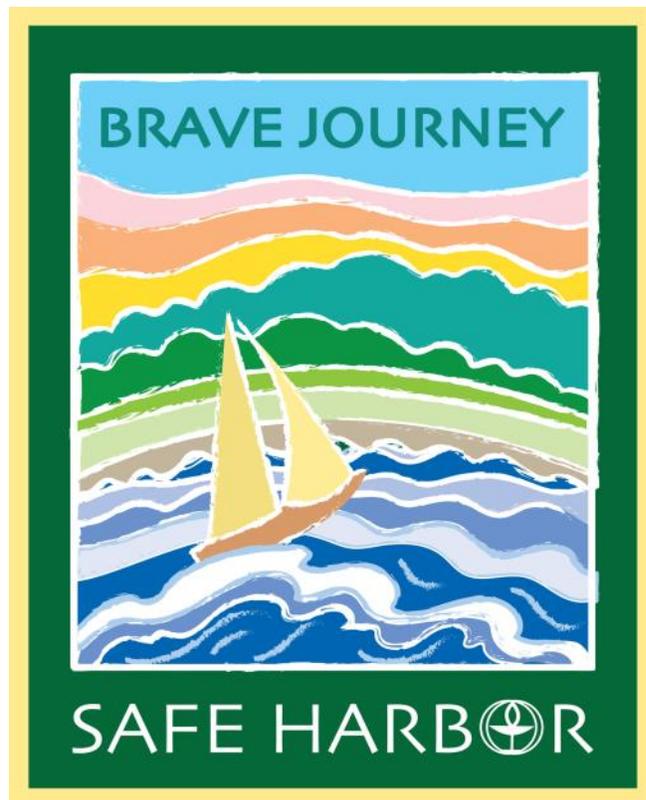
We need our harbor now more than ever as we choose a new minister to lead us and weather a pivotal national election season, filled with uncertainty. To keep our ministry strong, we ask you each year to provide financial assistance through the Canvass. This year’s theme is “Brave Journey, Safe Harbor.”

To function, UUCR requires donations of time and money. To make plans, UUCR needs your promise or pledge of what you will give in 2020-2021. You can make your pledges for the coming congregational budget year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) online, either through the Realm database or the Canvass website, or on paper. This year’s Canvass begins formally on March 8. Please visit the Canvass lobby table with questions or for paper pledge cards.

Let us embark on this brave journey together, knowing we have a safe harbor waiting for us.

Visit uucr.org/canvass for more information and to make your pledge.

Email us at canvassteam@uucr.org.



CONGREGATION WORKS

Goodbye, Donna Taylor!

by Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles, Interim Senior Minister



After eight years as UUCR's Congregation Administrator, Donna is retiring March 31. The congregation will have a chance to celebrate and thank her in both services and during Middle Hour on Sunday, March 22.

Donna has been a key member of UUCR's staff, and at the center of almost everything that happens here. She keeps track of details – like calendar, facilities, rentals, money. And she also is a part of our community of caring, working in relationship with members and friends to help them out with projects, to answer questions, to support when they need pastoral care or just a friendly ear.

She has graciously delayed her departure to the end of March so that she could have time to ensure a smooth transition, working all month with our new Congregation Administrator, JeKaren Olaoya. We will miss her greatly, but we will be in good hands because of Donna's caring attention to the transition. And she is looking forward to more time for reading, grandchildren, teaching ESL, and other adventures. Bon voyage, and thank you, Donna!

thank
you!

Leadership Development & Recruitment

by Terrie Barr, Leadership Development Team

On February 19 at their monthly Board meeting, our leaders affirmed that UUCR Leadership Development and Recruitment Plan. The Plan will be featured at the March 29 Town Hall. Lay Ministers Bonnie Bloomquist, Sherry Dittmann, Fran Lowe, and Terrie Barr worked with member and educational professional Michael Mignano over a two-year period to create the plan. This fulfills a Strategic Plan initiative for the fiscal year and includes mentoring and coaching of new and emerging leaders. The team relied heavily on excellent UUA online resources to create the leadership program. The purpose of the program is to provide current and emerging leaders with the opportunity and support to become inspired, skilled, spiritually grounded leaders, and to form deep(er) relationships within our covenant-driven community.

FAITH FORMATION

Gathering the Collective Wisdom in Family Faith Formation

by Carla Miller, Director of Religious Education

During this “wisdom” themed month, the Family Faith Formation Team and I will be bringing UUCR parents together in conversation circles to gather their collective wisdom. We hope to hear parents’ stories of the experiences, hopes, and dreams that keep them coming back for UUCR’s Faith Formation for Children, Youth and Families.

These gatherings are not planned to be a decision-making process in themselves; but the understandings we gather there will ground our decisions in the values of this community, and guide our choices with a clearer understanding of the priorities of this community. We also intend that these circles open the door to more ongoing conversations between staff, parents, teachers, and Family Faith Formation lay leadership.

Our Family Faith Formation Team envisions its role as “Ambassadors” between parents, teachers, and RE staff, facilitating communications, connections, and involvements of all in this community to collectively make a difference in the lives of our young people and in support of families. Clearly these conversations will only be a beginning, opening the door to the kind of ongoing communications and processes that keep our program vital and attuned to the needs of our families and this congregation.

I can’t yet announce times and places for these parent gatherings, as it is still early in the planning stage as I write this, so please keep an eye on *UUCR E-Weekly*. We plan to make this as convenient as possible, meeting parents where they are – on the playground, at the OWL parent meeting, and in other times and places that may be convenient. Childcare will be provided during all of our conversations, allowing parents to have an uninterrupted (or *less* interrupted) conversation.

I am truly looking forward to this opportunity to gain a deeper sense of the shared vision of UUCR’s families and the spirit of this community in our shared ministry of faith formation.

Carla



(Interim continued from page 1)

UUCR has been blessed for 64 years by the wisdom of so many – the ancestors who gave us a foundation of liberal religion; the Unitarians who planted the faith in Washington, DC; the founders of this congregation in Rockville; and the leaders and members ever since, who year after year have added their hopes and dreams, their skills and energy, their money and lives to the adventurous journey that is the story of UUCR. You have so much for which to be grateful, and so much for which to now be responsible.

The spring is coming – be present to the new season, tend to the changes, and give generously to sustain this beloved community.

-Rev. Linda OP

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Bystander Training

by Marie Reed, Racial Justice Working Group

Ever wonder what you could do if you observed someone being harassed in public because of their race, gender, ableness, religion, country of origin, or any other group status that makes them a target for hostility? How can you respectfully support the targeted person and de-escalate the situation? Come learn new skills. All ages are welcome.



Kit Bonson, a founder of the Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition, has developed a highly regarded bystander training workshop, and we are delighted that she will be leading the training.

Sunday, March 22, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Founders Hall. Admission is free and a light lunch will be served. Sign up on Sundays during Middle Hour, or online at bystander-intervention.eventbrite.com.

10,000 Letter Campaign

by Betsy Wilder, UUCRtheVote

UUCR members and friends gathered after the second service on January 26 and again on February 9 to write letters to voters as part of a broader [UU the Vote Campaign](#). The recipients of these letters are registered to vote, but they have a poor voting record. They are also in communities that are traditionally underrepresented in the political process. We are targeting North Carolina since it is a swing state in the 2020 election that will also have a close Senate race. As part of a non-partisan partnership with [VoteForward](#), UUCR is aiming to “move the needle” in the election by encouraging 10,000 of these individuals to make their voices heard! Through letter writing sessions at UUCR, parties hosted for friends, or individuals taking packets of letters home, our goal is to get 10,000 letters written by the end of October. They’ll be mailed at that time to have the greatest impact.

Although there are many partisan groups that are working for individual candidates or political parties, the UUCR 10,000 Letters Campaign is a non-partisan effort to promote social justice through the democratic process. It also provides an opportunity for community building within our congregation as we work together on an issue that is so vitally important. Monthly letter-writing sessions are being scheduled after the second service (the next one is **March 29**), or look for Betsy Wilder, Marie Reed, Fran Lowe, or Julianne Kapner in Fellowship Hall each Sunday during Middle Hour to receive a packet of 20 letters to take home and return to UUCR. Join this nationwide UU effort to make a dif-



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Police Reform in Montgomery County & State of Maryland: From Principles to Policy

by Peace Action Group at UUCR

Please join us on Sunday, March 15, to hear our guest Carlean Ponder discuss “Police Reform in Montgomery County & State of Maryland,” from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Founders Hall. Refreshments served before the presentation, and a moderated Q&A discussion follows. (Please sign up at the Social Justice table if you plan to attend.)

Ponder helped create the Silver Spring Justice Coalition (SSJC) following the shooting and killing of an unarmed black man, Robert L. White, by an MCPD officer in 2018. SSJC worked with County Councilor Hans Riemer to create the Police Advisory Commission (PAC), which will begin its work this year. On February 17, District 20 Maryland legislators (Senator Will Smith and Delegates Lorig Charkoudian, David Moon, and Jheanelle Wilkins) presented SSJC with an award for advocacy.



What should be the priorities for the PAC to address? Please bring your questions and concerns. Ponder, a civil rights attorney, will summarize the problems in Maryland laws which hobble reform efforts and will suggest paths for greater transparency and accountability of police departments. She has worked in the federal government, civil rights organizations, and private law firms, and has extensive experience in civil rights law. For more information, contact [Steve Lapham](#).

Sante Total

by Barbara Weis

Gaby Thelus, the Haitian Community Leader who works with [Sante Total](#), is coming to town! Please join him and Barbara Weis, Director of Sante Total, on Saturday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. in Founders Hall for a hearty bowl of "Soup Joumou" (Haitian Squash Soup) and a presentation of all the progress your support has made possible. We have been working in Jacsonville, Haiti, for ten years now, and are excited to share some of our accomplishments as well as challenges as we move forward into our second decade.

If you have the chance, it would be great if you could let Barbara know if you are coming. If you don't get a chance to respond, please come anyway! There'll be plenty of delicious food and fun fellowship!

Vegan/vegetarian option available. We hope to see you there!

Share the Plate

by Sean McCarthy, Social Justice Committee

The Share the Plate recipient for Sundays, March 8, 15, 22, and 29 will be [Interfaith Works](#). On these Sundays, half the offerings for the collection plate not designated for a pledge will be shared with Interfaith Works. This non-sectarian interfaith coalition of more than 165 affiliated congregations of diverse faiths works to meet the needs of the poor and homeless in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Interfaith Works provides tools for Montgomery County residents to escape or avoid poverty: eviction prevention, emergency shelter, clothing, job placement, and connection to other social services. UUCR volunteers also support the Interfaith Works Women's Center during one week in May, when UUCR members prepare and serve meals for local women experiencing homelessness.



ACTION AUCTION

What Can You Donate for the May 2 Action Auction?

by Elizabeth Zerby, Auction Team

UUCR's Action Auction Fiesta Cruise is a great event to share your skills, interests, and hobbies, meet new people, enjoy good food, and help raise funds for UUCR in the process. The goals are to have fun, build community, and support UUCR's many programs.

The "cruise" will be held **Saturday, May 2, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** It's a fun evening of silent and live bidding on special dinners, events, and services provided by congregation members and friends and by local businesses. It's a great way to discover and enjoy the depth and variety of talents among us! We're accepting donations until Sunday, April 5—what can *you* contribute?

- ◇ Deliver baked goods or whole meals
- ◇ Lead a hike, bike, canoe, or kayak trip
- ◇ Host a dinner, luncheon, game night, wine tasting
- ◇ Teach a musical instrument, sport, or other hobby
- ◇ Deliver fresh-picked fruit
- ◇ Donate time in your vacation home
- ◇ Provide a service (childcare, lawn care, tutoring)
- ◇ Donate gift cards, theater tickets



Here are some recent examples...

- ✓ Betsy Wilder and Phil Smith hosted an **Italian wine tasting and make your own pizza dinner**
- ✓ Mark Stiles custom **tie-dyed a tablecloth and dish towels**
- ✓ Matt Zembrzuski, Joe Young, and Todd Harrison hosted a **family-friendly open mic night at Saint Row's brewery**

Do you need help from a tradesman, a professional, or a handy-person? Just describe what you need, put what you're willing to pay, and at the Action Auction someone who is willing to provide that service will write their bidder number next to your offering. Some examples are:

- baby-sitting
- lawn and garden work
- computer help
- house repair and maintenance
- cleaning out junk
- care for a pet while you're away

For more ideas, check out the [2019 Catalog](#)! A link to a donation page for this year is in the works—watch for it in *UUCR E-Weekly*.

"Talk to us!" say Action Auction Cochairs **Carolyn Randall, Claudia Chitty, and Liz Zerby**. They can be reached at auctionleads@uucr.org. You can also visit our table after Sunday services, where you can get more ideas on what to donate.

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Spotlight On...

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

UUCR won the 2019 Battle of the Bands. Now it's time for a rematch! Mark your calendars for the next Battle on **March 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**—hosted by the UU Congregation of Columbia (MD).



UUs are known for their civility and commitment to respect for the inherent worth of all. But for one night only, the gloves come off (it's kind of hard to play wearing boxing gloves anyway). Smack talk, foul play and other poor behaviors will be fair game. The competition will be fierce. Not all may survive the night. But you will have an amazing night of entertainment as these musical Hunger Games go on full display.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia's One World Coffeehouse is delighted to host the 2020 Battle of the Bands and the UUCB Band, UUnified, will seek to strip the title from UU Rockville's band, Bonfire of the Mannakeys! Joining the epic throw-down is a mystery band from the UU Congregation of Fairfax.

Performance 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Table seating with a big dance area / mosh pit! Feel free to bring a dinner basket and an alcoholic beverage (no reds, please). Baked goods & non-alcoholic beverages available for sale. An auxiliary room has windows into the performance venue if you want to enjoy the show with especially energetic children.

Ticket Prices (fees not included):

Tickets for adults are just \$10 and include one voting ticket. Purchase your tickets in advance and you will receive FIVE voting tickets instead of one! High school age and under youth are free with a paying adult, but must purchase voting tickets onsite if they wish to vote for their favorite band.

Vote for your favorite bands as many times as you like by purchasing additional voting tickets for \$1 each. Yes, this vote can be bought! It's all for a good cause, so vote, vote, vote!



Need a ride? The UU Congregation of Columbia is about an hour's drive from UU Rockville, so we're renting a party bus to drive us there! Bus fare is \$12 per person regardless of age. Reservations must be made *no later than March 12, 2020*. Seats are limited so reserve yours today! Reserve online or at the Music & Arts table (cash or check only) during Middle Hour.

Buy your event tickets and reserve your seat on the bus [HERE](#).

Sarah

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Community Supported Agriculture: Fresh Organic Produce Delivered to UUCR Weekly

by Terrie Barr, Environmental Action Group

Farm of Peace, a CSA just north of the Maryland line, is an organic farm that wants to partner with UUCR families.

A CSA is a community of members who support a farm operation, with the farmer and the consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of food production. We have been invited to join the Farm of Peace CSA this year! Produce will be delivered on Saturdays weekly at UUCR, June through September or November if we have ten families that choose to participate.

The Environmental Action Group asks that you consider nourishing yourself and family with really fresh, healthy produce. Farm of Peace has been delivering in the greater DC area for more than ten years, and we are pleased to make this available to our congregation if there is enough interest. You can opt out of anything you don't like and substitute or get free extra items. Makeup shares are available if you are out of town. The weekly newsletter provides recipes for less familiar items, plus farm photos. Donation and gift shares also available if you prefer to provide for others.

With each delivery, you can expect to receive 5-10 different items from what is ready that week. Early and late in the season will have a little less...the mid-season will have more. A Full Share is one large grocery bag full, weekly. You can also get a bag every other week or a small/half bag weekly for 16 weeks (through September) or 24 weeks (through November). The small shares get a little more than half a bag, and sometimes different or fewer items, but always at least half compared to the full shares.

	16 weeks	24 weeks
◆ Full share = a full bag every week, suitable for 2-4 people	\$528	\$750
◆ Biweekly share = a full bag every other week, suitable for 1-2 people	\$264	\$375
◆ Small share = half a bag every week, suitable for 1-2 people	\$288	\$420

Payment is upfront when you join. Pay by check or card; a payment plan in four installments is also available.

Please respond to Terrie Barr by March 9 if you are interested in joining. We will let you know if/when we get ten families with full shares or 20 families with half shares.

For more information on the Farm of Peace, visit farmofpeace.com/organic-csa-farm



SHARING THE MINISTRY

Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship

by Rev. Rebekah Savage

New Group Forming: You asked, we listened!



Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship: If you wish you freely follow Jesus, you are welcome to the UUCF—a non-creedal group rooted in the history and tradition of Unitarian Universalism. UUCF is a “movement and organization of members who are interested in exploring liberal Christianity as we walk freely in the spirit of Jesus, growing our souls and the soul of the world.”

UU Christian Fellowship Groups spring up in a variety of ways:

- ⇒ A group of two or three who meet for Wednesday morning Bible study.
- ⇒ A series of potluck suppers with guest speakers, possibly local ministers or someone from the UUCF headquarters.
- ⇒ A monthly theological discussion group, initially sharing individual feelings about Christianity and the experiences of participants, then discussing some of the books or articles on the UUCF’s recommended reading list, or articles in the *UU Christian Journal*. Possibly a communion service at the close of each meeting.

The structure and the name of the group may vary. The numbers may be small. Some of the people who come may proudly call themselves “Christians” and some may not be sure of the label. But, however organized, there can be ways of exploring Christian faith and providing spiritual nourishment in Unitarian Universalist churches and fellowships.

If you’re interested in finding out more, check out www.uuchristian.org. To help start or attend a UU Christian Fellowship group at UUCR, contact Rev. Linda (lopeebles@uucr.org) or Rev. Rebekah (rev.rebekah@uucr.org).

Thinking of You

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

Claudia & Richard Chitty are so happy to announce that their daughter Heather has given birth to their first grandchild, Nora. Heather, Nora, and husband Paul Schauppner are doing fine in Houston.

We send loving thoughts to **André Enceneat** and his family, as he undergoes treatment for cancer.

And we send loving thoughts to **Marie Reed** who will be recovering from surgery on March 4.

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



Quest

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March 4, 2020

DATED MATERIAL

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, the members of UUCR voted to support the UUA in moving toward incorporating a proposed Eighth Principle that may be as stated below:

- 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