

---

---

## WORSHIP SERVICES

---

---

**April Theme: LIBERATION**

**Sun., April 5, 10:30 a.m.**

*Bold Journey, Safe Harbor*

Even in this strange time of quarantine, physical separation, suspension as “life-as-usual” – the cherry blossoms bloomed! Our congregation has come together on-line and through phone calls and pastoral outreaches. In the midst of fear and anxiety, it is good for our souls to be liberated by the promise of love and spring returning and the continuing commitment we all feel with one another. Led by **Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles**.

**Virtual Gatherings**—Please visit [www.uucr.org/zoom](http://www.uucr.org/zoom) for details on how to participate in our online worship services, and for the schedule of our Faith Formation classes for children and youth.

**Sun., April 12, 10:30 a.m.**

*Easter Sunday*

Through story and song and community connections, we remind each other that our burdens can be lifted and our lives can offer meaning to one another.

**Virtual Gatherings**—

[www.uucr.org/zoom](http://www.uucr.org/zoom)



*(continued on page 2)*

April 1, 2020

# Quest

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

---

---

*Lifelong Spiritual Discovery Beloved Community A Just World*

---

---

Volume LXIII, Number 8  
April 1, 2020

Editor & Publisher:  
Adrian L. H. Graham

### *In the Interim...*

*by the Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles*

We are all still trying to understand what the threat of the coronavirus means to us. So much in our lives has been up-ended—our routines, our comforts, our handshakes and hugs. The medical profession is working hard to keep us safe, and our elected officials are trying to manage the challenge to our public lives and the economic fallout.



That leaves the *spiritual* challenge to us, the people of faith, the people who seek to love courageously in spite of how difficult life can be. What are the life lessons you have been learning? What have you discovered about yourself? How are you managing your anxiety? Stress, negative emotions, insecurity, all these are a great danger to us. Excessive stress can actually shorten lives, as well as lessen the quality. How can we live through times like this and remain centered, remain loving, remain able to face the trials of life with grace and balance?

Here are four things we can each do:

- 1) Go outside, to soak in the air and sun, to exercise, every day. We need to take care of our bodies.
- 2) Talk to two friends every day, on the phone or via video technology. We need to take care of our human need for relationships.
- 3) Meditate or pray every day, even for a few moments. We need to take care of our souls.
- 4) Find a way to do a kindness for others. Think of how you can help someone who is suffering from the economic impact, or someone who is too ill or vulnerable to go for groceries, or someone who invites you to join in an effort to organize for a better world. When we take time to help someone else, we take care of our own hearts.

*(continued on page 5)*

The remainder of this year's *Quest* publication schedule is TBD as we assess our communications needs and capacities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Email queries and possible submissions to [quest@uucr.org](mailto:quest@uucr.org).

Ongoing updates available at [uucr.org/covid-19](http://uucr.org/covid-19).

# Quest

**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Rockville**  
100 Welsh Park Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-762-7666  
UUCR@UUCR.ORG  
WWW.UUCR.ORG

## Staff

Interim Senior Minister:

Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles

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

Congregation Administrator:

JeKaren Olaoya

RE & Youth Assistant: Aiden Chernikoff

Pianist: Justin Furnia

Building Sexton: Justin Onyeador

## Board of Trustees

Mary Carvajal, President

Elsa Powel Strong, Vice President

Peter Shaw, Secretary

Christy Shannon, Treasurer

Dana Alzouma

Glenn Griffin

Brian Haugen

Colleen Dolak, Immediate Past President

## Officers

Secretary: Peter Shaw

Treasurer: Christy Shannon

Assistant Treasurers: Eric Burch

Barbara Harrison

## Quest Staff

Editor-in-Chief/Coordinator: Adrian Graham

Desktop Publisher: Adrian Graham

*Quest*, the regular newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, is published monthly at the UUCR office at 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville, MD 20850, and distributed without charge to members, guests, and friends. Postage is paid at Rockville, MD. All rights reserved. Postmaster: Send address changes to Circulation Manager, *Quest*, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

(Worship Services continued from page 1)

**Sunday, April 19, 10:30 a.m.**

*Earth Day*

Our worship theme for the month is, ironically, “Liberation”. On this day, we are reminded that liberation for us is inextricably linked to our interdependent web of all existence. We celebrate the bursts of spring, and mourn the mounting hardships around us. Led by Rev. Rebekah Savage.

**Virtual Gatherings**—Please visit [www.uucr.org/zoom](http://www.uucr.org/zoom) for details on how to participate in our online worship services, and for the schedule of our Faith Formation classes for children and youth.

**Sunday, April 26, 10:30 a.m.**

*Liberating Our Relationships*

The **Rev. Russ Savage**, a longtime beloved UU colleague in the DC region, joins UUCR today to offer an inspiring message.

**Virtual Gatherings**—[www.uucr.org/zoom](http://www.uucr.org/zoom).



---

# FAITH FORMATION

---

## Reflections

by Carla Miller, Director of Religious Education

“When will school be made up? What about the spring play, my birthday party, the credits I need to graduate? Why can’t I even go to my friend’s house? I’m *bored*.”

An extended spring break sounds great—until it goes on, and on, and on. Children and youth are faced with a high level of uncertainty in their lives right now, as are we all. Their grown-ups are trying to get work done, and at the same time working to be attentive to the children’s needs. Children are quite vulnerable to the stress of their caregivers, which ratchets up their own; and many households are under a good deal of stress right now.



In this strangely quiet and uncertain moment, Family Faith Formation is finding new ways to minister to our children, youth, and families. The caring community we can provide for our young people is more needed, and more precious to us all, at this time.

Faith Formation groups will gather online, so that children and youth can see and talk to one another and their teachers, learn and laugh together, and continue on the path of faith formation together. The following meeting times have been established:

### Chalice Chapels

On Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. children of all ages will gather for Chalice Chapel (including any youth and grown-ups who would like to join us! Have you wondered what we do in CC?) [Join here](#) on Wednesdays.

### Zoom Meetings by Grade

These have been set up for Sunday mornings: [Grades 2-3](#) at 9:30 a.m. | [Grades 4-5](#) at 11:45 a.m. | [Grades 6-8](#) at 2:00 p.m. | [Grades 9-12](#) at 1:00 p.m. | Grades K-1 may also be meeting online for a check-in and story time, but nothing is yet scheduled at this time.

This uncertain time is also an opportunity to minister to families, and to us all, in a variety of new ways.

*Carla*

[cmiller@uucr.org](mailto:cmiller@uucr.org)

301-762-7666



---

---

## FAITH FORMATION

---

---

### New2UU for Newcomers

by Adrian Graham, Director of Communications & Membership

Our Spring New2UU class never got a chance to get off the ground! Now that some time has passed, and we are (perhaps) settling in to our new routines at home, it is time to get back into gear.

Unitarian Universalism is a generally welcoming religious tradition, and under the best of circumstances it is always our intention to provide space where people can come to question, explore, and deepen their—your—faith. The New2UU class attempts to create the opportunity for participants to share their own spiritual journeys, and yearnings, while getting to know others who may be completely new to Unitarian Universalism, or who are simply newcomers to our congregation who wish to know better how we express this larger faith in our particular setting. Whether you are merely curious, or whether you wish to dive deeper and make the commitment to join the congregation, this is the class for you!



I am currently discerning the schedule that will work best with those who had signed up for the original series, but I certainly invite any additional folks to join. The series will be offered by Zoom, and a link will be shared with registrants. If you have questions beyond what is addressed here, or if you would like to find out more about the class, or if you just want to go ahead and register regardless—please reach out to me by email ([agraham@uucr.org](mailto:agraham@uucr.org)) or by calling the office at 301-762-7666 x5.

In the Light,

*Adrian*

---

---

## SHARING THE MINISTRY

---

---

### A Note from the President

by Mary Carvajal, UUCR Board President 2019-20

Hello, everyone! I hope you are all staying well and upbeat. Please remember to take care of yourselves—get outside, take walks, stay in touch. I’ve never been so happy to have electronic access to the people in my life!

The Board is forging ahead with activities and meetings as best we can. Thank you to all who attended and participated in the first UUCR Town Hall Meeting via Zoom on Sunday, March 29. It was great seeing you there.

### Important Links for Keeping Engaged

by Adrian Graham, Director of Communications & Membership

- ◆ [www.uucr.org](http://www.uucr.org)—Our website! When in doubt, start with our homepage (or, see *Contact Us!* below).
- ◆ [www.uucr.org/covid-19](http://www.uucr.org/covid-19)—Archive of “All-UUCR” messages sent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Includes a link to the page where our four most recent *UUCR E-News\** emails are posted as well. (\**UUCR E-Weekly* is on hiatus.)
- ◆ [www.uucr.org/zoom](http://www.uucr.org/zoom)—Information and links to any of our regularly occurring virtual gatherings, which for the time being are being hosted by the Zoom videoconferencing platform.
- ◆ [www.uucr.org/search2020](http://www.uucr.org/search2020)—Updates and invitations to events concerning the Ministerial Search process.
- ◆ [www.uucr.org/realm](http://www.uucr.org/realm)—COMING SOON! A page for info on our congregational engagement tool, Realm. Until it is ready, and if you would like assistance getting set up, please email [realm@uucr.org](mailto:realm@uucr.org).
- ◆ [www.uucr.org/contact-us](http://www.uucr.org/contact-us)—*Contact Us!* Staff contact info and links to UUCR Social Media accounts.

---

---

## SHARING THE MINISTRY

---

---

### Lifelines of Love

by Rev. Rebekah Savage, Associate Minister

The prayer of my heart is that you are receiving this, knowing you are held in Love and feel the connections across our community. It has brought warmth to my heart beholding the outpouring of care and support to those in our midst, and our congregants also trust us enough to feel safe in asking for support. These lifelines, both in giving and receiving, shall carry us through this time!



Connections are life. As such, our amazing Pastoral Care Cochairs, Jane Klag and Sharon Fitzpatrick, have been super stars in coordinating and monitoring needs and requests. We are connecting with congregants and staying in touch. If you're able to support our isolated congregants by dropping off groceries or running errands, please let Rev. Rebekah, Rev. Linda, Jane, or Sharon know.

Conversations are life. Emerson's, our weekly soulful discussion group sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Committee, is now offering a Friday night **Emerson's Sunset Cafe** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Check our [UUCR Facebook group for Members and Friends](#) or email Rev. Rebekah ([rev.rebekah@uucr.org](mailto:rev.rebekah@uucr.org)), John Dunbar, or Maura Malone if you'd like to participate.

Community is life—even smaller ones! Our Small Group Ministry program is moving largely online via Zoom for now! All are welcome to join a Small Group for a thoughtful, reflective conversation. Contact Rev. Rebekah, Marsha Luce, or Bonnie Bloomquist to sign up or find out more.

We're here, each in our own way, in our own spaces, pushing against the fragmented nature of social distancing with tremendous heart and abundant love. Reach out, and keep reaching out. Call, text, and connect when your spirits dip because *we all get it*. Share, dance, and find sparks of joy and possibility when you can. We need our visionaries to shine the light towards the other side. We need your hope to guide our way.

My prayers are with you, everyday, Sweet Sweet Souls.



*(Interim continued from page 1)*

Our April *Soul Matters* theme is "Liberation". The Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh says "I vow to let go of all worries and anxieties in order to be light and free." May you find a way to be liberated from the burdens of anxiety, and appreciate the wonder of life, even in a time of crisis. That is the religious way.

- Rev. Linda OP

([lopeebls@uucr.org](mailto:lopeebls@uucr.org))

---

## SHARING THE MINISTRY

---

### ***Spotlight On...Wisdom***

*by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music*

My brother Michael has a wise saying, “I don’t stress, I solve.” This has become my new mantra. I don’t have to tell you that these are...interesting times. I admit, I’ve never moved an entire ministry online in 48 hours, have you? It’s been a wild week.

But as I reflect on the many stresses and many more victories—both small and large—that I’ve experienced over the past week, I’m struck by how much I’m enjoying this work. I’m getting to stretch creative muscles that haven’t been stretched in a while. I’m making connections with colleagues both near and far. I’m rethinking what it means to be in community when the only means of communing is through a computer screen. I’m thinking of ways to engage with the musicians at UUCR and stay connected with the choir, even though our rehearsals are on hiatus. I’m also really, really grateful for the forced down-time. I suddenly have room in my schedule to unpack the boxes in my new house and do some cleaning and organizing. I wasn’t planning to be able to do that until 2022 at the earliest! Even in the midst of mighty upheaval, all I can feel is gratitude.



So...what’s next? My main focus right now is on Sunday worship; but once I get my feet under me in that regard, I’ll be continuing to hold weekly choir meetings online. I’ve asked the choir members to think of ways to stay engaged with each other. I have some ideas too, such as working on our new choir covenant and offering a vocal Q&A class. I’m also looking for technology that will enable us to keep singing.

Additionally, I’m tossing around the idea of offering a weekly poetry & music vespers service. If that happens, I’ll be reaching out to our various instrumentalists to ask if they’ll help create that space for the community. If you have a favorite poem to share (either reading it live yourself or offering it for someone else to read), please email me: [sjebian@uucr.org](mailto:sjebian@uucr.org).

One last thing: I invite you to help me select the music I’ll feature in worship. You can do that by adding your suggestions to [this shared document](#). If you haven’t used Google Sheets before, all you need to do is type your suggestions in the appropriate box. The changes save automatically. Simply click the link above, add your suggestions, and close the browser tab/window. That’s it! Easy peasy.

If there are ways that you’d like Justin and me to support and serve you during this time, please reach out. Keep breathing dear ones. I love you. I miss you.

***Sarah***



---

---

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

---

---

### Call for Nature Art

by Alex Tucker, Environmental Action Group

We are inviting children, youth, and adults to create nature inspired art, photos, or poems for UUCR's **50th Anniversary Earth Month Digital Art Show**. No matting or framing is needed. Please send digital versions of your art, photos, or poems to **Alex Tucker**.



---

---

## CONGREGATION WORKS

---

---

### A Note from the Office

by JeKaren Olaoya, Congregation Administrator

Hi Everyone,

While the church building is as quiet as it has probably ever been, I'm happy to share with you that the building is not lonely! During your time away, we are working hard to schedule much needed cleaning, sanitizing, and a big window-cleaning and floor-waxing project that will help the building shine! I know that there will be individuals in and out, but don't be alarmed if there are sections taped off or unavailable to you.



While our gatherings are not in person, I'm happy providing support in making Zoom reservations and working out technical issues. If you have a group that would like to meet please send me an email at [churchadministrator@uucr.org](mailto:churchadministrator@uucr.org) and I can schedule and test it out with you! I've heard a lot of positive feedback from groups who have already switched over and I'm happy to help you do the same!

In Love and Service,

*JeKaren*

---

---

## CONGREGATION WORKS

---

---

### Fellowship Dinner Recognitions

by Mary Carvajal, UUCR Board President 2019-20

#### Leadership/Vision Award

- ◇ **Terrie Barr** has done and is doing so many things, including co-chairing the Lay Ministry Council. She led the effort to celebrate Lynn. Her leadership of the Leadership Development and Recruitment Plan was outstanding. She had a great vision, brought in talented people, developed terrific plans, kept us on track, was able to assimilate a great deal of information from all over the UUA and figure out how to best use it, with great results. And she does all of this as a great model of right relations – very respectful and encouraging.
- ◇ **Bruce Baskett** serves as the Lay Minister for Adult Faith Formation (AFF) and actively guides and supports the mission and work of the AFF Team. In addition to the Lay Ministry Council and AFF, he is a member of the Finance Committee and has served on the Canvass for several years, often contributing through his expert and deft writing skills. This year he is co-chairing the Fellowship Dinner. Bruce initiated and created “Inside UUCR: A Guide for Understanding, Serving, and Receiving In Community,” a labor of love that took several months to complete. Bruce also made the beautiful Prayer Box we use for personal prayers during Joys and Sorrows.



#### Social Justice/Responsibility Award

- ◇ **Nancy Spencer:** A new member, she quickly brought her wonderful spirit and wisdom to the Racial Justice Working Group. She initiated and continues to facilitate the Coming to the Table program, allowing us to develop deeper understanding, empathy, and meaningful connections to promote healing from racism’s harm and to support racial reconciliation. She takes us to a new level of multicultural and multiracial conversation.

#### Spiritual Freedom/Growth Award

- ◇ **Bronson Hoover** is a passionate and talented leader and contributor to our musical program. He was the chair of the Music Committee last year, and on the hiring committee for the past two music directors. He shares his talents as the music lead for Sunday service once or twice per year. He helped found Bonfire of the Mannakeys, hosts practices at his house, and plays with them at services. He has coordinated or contributed to programs that have helped UUCR build connections with the broader community - the *Battle of the Bands*, *ArtsConnect*, the Harvest Bazaar and Heads Up Everyone; for the Action Auction he offers a yearly jazz concert.
- ◇ **Niambi Powell** is a member of the UUCR Choir, Bonfire of the Mannakeys and the Music & Arts Council. Additionally, she brought her barbershop quartet HALO to perform in services twice this year, and they led our “Race & #RealTalk” workshop series and performed an INCREDIBLE concert as part of the *ArtsConnect* at UUCR series. Moreover, Niambi is helping us build the future with her past work on the search teams for music director and interim minister, and her current service on both the Rental and Nominating Committees.
- ◇ **Judy Rayner** has shown her dedication to lifelong spiritual discovery for over twenty years. She has been an advocate for Our Whole Lives (OWL) at UUCR, at the Joseph Priestly District, and now at the Central East Region. She kept the UUCR (OWL) team together, focused, and on track through many years of transition in Religious Education. She has facilitated OWL courses for all [school-age] levels—elementary, middle school, and senior high. She has served on the Family Faith Formation Team and on other task forces.

#### Beloved Community Award

- ◇ **André Enceneat.** His amazing voice and dedication to our music programs and the Bonfire of the Mannakeys created new vibes in our congregation. His sweet voice created a new harmony for all of us. Since joining UUCR André worked with Sarah Jebian to pave the way for broader musical exposure. In just a few short years, he became an integral part of UUCR. Thank you, André, for sharing your musical talents and passion with us.
- ◇ **Michael Mignano,** for his work on the Leadership Development Plan team. Michael worked with the team to study what was needed and interview members of the community on what a leadership program could look like, analyzing the 4 UUA online leadership courses and matching their content to the 9 UUCR Core Leadership Qualities. Lastly, he was a member of the team that had the heroic task of analyzing and presenting the data from the listening circles, survey, and attendance data to create a report that we could all use to better understand ourselves.
- ◇ **Emily Untermeyer** has been an active lay leader supporting UUCR programs and activities since joining the congregation. Some of these activities are very visible, others are not. Emily took over the Decorations Committee last year, filling a very important vacancy and recruiting new members. Her service and leadership include supporting the yearly Canvass in 2018 and 2019, and continues today with leading and supporting Canvass activities. She volunteered to be a cochair of the Fellowship Dinner this year and she provided all food for the Lead Givers event. She was a key member of the Two Services Evaluation Team, and is a member of the Pastoral Care Team.

---

---

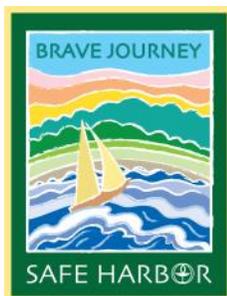
## ANNUAL CANVASS

---

---

### The 2020 Canvass: “Brave Journey, Safe Harbor”

by Karl Irikura, Canvass Cochair



For the past few weeks, our life journeys have taken an unexpected detour. We have changed how we work, how we play, how we study, and how we maintain our connections. The changes may have been unwelcome, but we can learn from them and from the new experiences they bring. How can we continue to support each other? How much strength and love can we draw from our UUCR community?

UUCR is a safe harbor, where I can relax, be myself, and be spiritually and emotionally nourished. It's a place where I can admire and learn from all you role models! I've been inspired by the creativity and hard work of our staff, who have maintained our feeling of community in this time of physical isolation. I hope that UUCR comforts, nourishes, teaches, and inspires you, too. I pledge my money and time to ensure that UUCR will remain here for me, for you, and for those who will join us. If you have not yet pledged, please visit [www.uucr.org/canvass](http://www.uucr.org/canvass) to declare how much support you can provide during the coming budget year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021). Spread the word!

Canvass Cochairs Karl Irikura and Beth Mellen Harrison can be reached at [canvassteam@uucr.org](mailto:canvassteam@uucr.org).

---

---

## PASTORAL CARE

---

---

### Thinking of You

compiled by Emily Untermeyer and Staff on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team

Please send loving thoughts to our UUCR family members who have been struggling with health challenges or family loss, and those who are celebrating special milestones.

**Suzanne Carrillo's** beloved mother, Mildred (Millie) Rae, passed away on March 1 in Virginia, surrounded by her family and friends. Please send loving prayers to Suzanne, Antonio, and their family.

Our deepest condolences go to all who love **André Enceneat**, who died March 28 following a valiant fight with cancer. We hold in our hearts especially his wife Marga and son Julian, and all their family.

Best wishes to **Celia Young**, who is recovering in rehab during a serious illness requiring hospitalization.

**Charlie Eisenhauer** recently celebrated his 90th birthday!

We are very grateful for **Judy Eisenhauer's** excellent oversight of this column for the past several years. Thank you, Judy!

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



## Quest

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville  
100 Welsh Park Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
ROCKVILLE, MD  
PERMIT NO. 121

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

April 1, 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