
SUNDAY SERVICES

July Theme: PLAY

Sunday, July 16, 10:00 a.m.

I Am in Need of Music

The members of WildBerry Jam have spent a lot of their lives in making music, because it's what makes us happy. We will share our thoughts about why music is such a blessing in our lives, sing several pieces, and invite the congregation to join us in singing as well. Led by **Julie Graf & Cynthia Shires-Thurston**.

WildBerry Jam (Gaynelle Campbell, Julie Graf, Kris Butler, and Cynthia Shires-Thurston) will sing; **Dick Gilbert** on piano.

Summer RE—Children 5 and under may go to the Nursery in Building 3, Room 33. Ages 5-11 will gather in Founders Hall. Ages 12-17 will gather in room 50.

Sunday, July 23, 10:00 a.m.

Playful Prayers

Come ready to move and to be still, to sing and to be silent as we explore the many forms of prayer that exist in the world. Maybe you'll find a method of prayer that works for you. Led by **Dayna Edwards**, Director of Religious Education.

Special music by **Jeremy Shuhmann**, guitar & voice; **Justin Furnia** on piano.

Multigenerational Service—All gather together in the Sanctuary

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July 12, 2017

Quest

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

Lifelong Spiritual Discovery Beloved Community A Just World

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July 12, 2017

Editor: Beth Irikura
Desktop Publisher: Adrian Graham

A Bold Future Awaits Our Courageous Love

by the UUCR Future Planning Team



We, the members of the Future Planning Team, wish to thank each and every one of you who has attended one of our first two days of reflection and the Practicing Courageous Love Summit. By providing us with your thoughts and ideas about our beloved congregation and embracing our marvelous new mission statement you have enabled us to being to “Practice Courageous Love.”

We have a third and final Day of Reflection for this year, and we need your voice to be heard—make July 30 a date to keep on your calendar! Shortly after the service, we will return to the Sanctuary for discussion of the preliminary direction of our future plan. Come listen and share your thoughts about how we can poise UUCR to embrace opportunities and address the challenges facing our congregation in the near future.

Practice Courageous Love provides a powerful unifying theme and focus for the three values we are embracing: Lifelong Spiritual Discovery, Beloved Community, and a Just World. Make them more than words. Make them the vibrant focus of our congregation. How? Come to the service on July 30 and plan to stay afterwards to learn more. We expect our discussion time to last about an hour.

Childcare for ages 5 and under will be available in the Building 3 Nursery. Please respond to [Rena Geibel](#) by July 21 if you require nursery care. Self-directed activities will be available for elementary-aged children in the Sanctuary.

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Quest deadline: Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on August 2, 2017.

Email to [Adrian Graham](#)

Quest

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(Sunday Services continued from page 1)

for the entire service. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, July 30, 10:00 a.m.

Future Planning—Day of Reflection

The energy of Practicing Courageous Love has been building since it was announced as the new mission of UUCR. The values of lifelong spiritual discovery, a just world, and beloved community give this mission life as we are inspired to practice courageous change, giving, faith, community. Hear the voices of the future planning committee as we share our vision and then join us for a talk-back after the service! Led by **Terrie Barr and the Future Planning Team.**

Grace Cho & Justin Furnia on piano.

Summer RE—Children 5 and under may go to the Nursery in Building 3, Room 33. Ages 5-11 will gather in Founders Hall. Ages 12-17 will gather in room 50.



August Theme: REST

Sunday, August 6, 10:00 a.m.

Grounded in Resilience and Courage

Led by Guest Minister **Rev. Mary Katherine Morn.**

Sunday, August 13, 10:00 a.m.

Liberation Theologies in Dialogue

Led by **Dayna Edwards**, Director of Religious Education.

Sunday, August 20, 10:00 a.m.

The Limits of Authenticity

Led by Guest Minister **Rev. John T. Crestwell, Jr.**

Sunday, August 27, 10:00 a.m.

Rest in Peace: The Power of Memorial Services

Led by **Rev. Lynn Strauss.**

Scenes from Ministry Days & UUA General Assembly

by Rev. Lynn T. Strauss

Monday

Weary travelers at BWI, floor sitters and long lines dwindling as weather clears.
Ministers climbing on Shuttle Bus in New Orleans asking, “Where do you serve?”
Watching lightning flash across the sky from my 6th floor hotel window.

Tuesday

Early morning walking through heavy wet heat to Convention Center.
Exhaustion amid the wisdom of three Interim Co-Presidents of UUA.
Three Presidential Candidates, like all women who lead, trying to fit the mold.
One amazing French dinner with a friend, lovely flavors of conversation.

Wednesday

Opening ceremonies and for once, I feel included.
Kept running into Rev. Nathan Ryan, a former intern at UUCR!
Meadville Lombard Theological School Alumni Dinner—many new faces.

Thursday

Led guided meditation at 7 a.m.—35 quiet souls sitting together.
Lunch with UUCR leaders Christin Green and Kevin Power.
Quick stop at UUCR Delegates Dinner—New Orleans fare.
Service of the Living Tradition: sermon by Rev. Cheryl Walker.

Friday

8:30 GA Chaplain Meeting.
General Plenary Session III—Tabling of motion to change “person” to “being”.
Walk on Riverwalk for beignet and coffee.
Time to Vote for First Woman President of UUA.
Evening Reception for outgoing Three Interim Presidents.

Saturday

Breakfast and check-out at Hotel.
Final meeting to turn in my Chaplain Hat.
Shuttle to the Airport, lots to think about.
Flight delayed—hung out with young adult member of UUCR.
Home at last, tired and happy...lots to think about.

Reverend Lynn



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Reflections

by Dayna Edwards, M.A., Director of Religious Education

As I write this, we are finishing the fourth week of our Summer Makerspace. The community of makers in both the elementary school space and the youth space have really blossomed! The question I get asked most often is “how is this Faith Formation?” Here are five ways that Makerspace is helping to form our children’s and youths’ faith:



1. **The space and materials are designed to inspire creativity, foster collaboration, and invite curiosity.** The students are given access to all the materials they need in clearly labeled containers. Everything is sized for the developmental level of the child/youth and there is plenty of room to spread out. Students can work together using the same materials, or work separately by gathering their materials and finding a quiet space to work.
2. **Makerspaces take the focus away from didactic teacher-led learning and allow for a more student-centered approach to learning—inviting more “aha!” moments.** Each Sunday, the elementary school students are invited to take part in a “Maker Challenge” which is based on a theme, or they can use one of our maker challenge cards to get started on a project. Our youth have a summer-long challenge of building a [Little Free Library](#) for the church. The children/youth are encouraged to problem-solve while the adults are encouraged to ask open-ended questions.
3. **The students are encouraged to see themselves as part of a learning community and can practice giving and receiving feedback productively.** The feedback can happen naturally as part of the making process, or more formally as the makers wrap up their making for the day and share their products.
4. In a Makerspace, **we have an opportunity to practice good stewardship of resources and negotiation of limited resources**—two important skills in a congregational environment. The Board of Trustees and congregational committees spend lots of time on these exact same skills! In our Makerspace, it looks like an adult asking the question, “if we have two pairs of scissors and four people who need scissors, what will we do?” Additionally, many of our Makerspace materials are recycled materials like food pouch tops or cleaned yogurt containers. The children learn to think creatively about how to reuse household materials.
5. **Because the adults in the classroom are not focused on “imparting knowledge” they can focus more on creating intergenerational relationships.** They can work with the children/youth side by side instead of top-down. There is much more warmth and opportunity for connection when a child and an adult are working on something together than when an adult is “instructing” a child. Think of a time when you have connected with someone—were you being “taught” or were you engaged in an activity together?

But don’t take my word for it. Come check out our Makerspace this summer and discover how sacred the work of “making” can be.

In faith,

Dayna

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Yes, and...

by Rev. Rebekah Montgomery

Our UUCR worship theme for July is "Play," which has been an endless source of inspiration and delight. Each month, I create the session plans for our Small Group Ministry program and each conversation is directly inspired by the worship theme. Here is a quote I found from an article about play and religion:

A general function of all play is to give meaning to people's lives and to help them cope with the real world...Religion, properly conceived, is a grand and potentially life-long game in which people use the basic structures of the game—the story outlines, beliefs, and rituals—along with their own creative additions and modifications, to make sense of their real world and real lives. The stories and beliefs may be understood as fictions, but they are sacred fictions because they represent ideas and principles that are crucial to living in the real world and they may be held through all of life... To keep religion on the side of humanity instead of against it, we need continuously to refresh its playfulness. Sacred play promotes the best of our human nature, improves our wellbeing, and is fun. Religion lacking play is suicidal.

~ Peter Gray, from "Play is Foundation for Religion"



I love this idea. I have come to appreciate that one of the beautiful aspects of deepening my connection to Unitarian Universalism is indeed this spirit of playfulness. In our shared principle of the individual free and responsible search for truth and meaning, we are called to dance lightly with capital "T" truths. Holding a spirit of open mindedness to what we presume to be true for ourselves, as well as warm respect for the truths of others. We engage in conversations of heart and worship to expand and deepen our understanding and to reaffirm our covenant as a beloved community. In a recent staff meeting, Rev. Lynn asked us what one of our spiritual gifts is. One idea emerged: the spiritual gift of a "yes...and" attitude. You may have heard "yes...and" if you enjoy improv comedy. It's a game where one person says something and everyone responds with "yes...and," thereby continuing the story and the action or idea. It's a delightful exploration of creativity and is always surprising what each person brings to change the narrative.

This connects back to this idea of sacred play, where the stories of our lives and how we understand the world are continuously changing and evolving, as we encounter new ways of being and seeing. It is the sacred beauty of diversity and why living in spaces that engage in dismantling anti-white supremacist thinking are so important. We feel this in our social justice and transformation work. Many of us feel the call to witness our love in the world because we become aware of the suffering or struggles of others, or shine our own light because we endeavor to give hope to others. We engage in sacred play when we ask questions of wonder and allow ourselves to be vulnerable in our communities of heart. Living into and through our stories is crucial to living together and to leading a full life. As we live into our UUCR theme this year to *Practice Courageous Love*, I pray that we each find ways to dance in the possibility of sacred play!

CONGREGATION WORKS

(A Bold Future... continued from page 1)

Please talk to the members of the Future Planning Team if you have any questions: **Terrie Barr, Colleen Dolak, José Clemente, Steve Eckstrand, Bill Newhouse, Ellen Rohan, Scott Reilly, Lisa Reed, Rev. Lynn, and Christin Green.**

Please read and consider the following before our final Day of Reflection on July 30:

Practice Courageous Change as we strengthen our Beloved Community.

Attendance at the UUCR services is increasing, to the point where new worship alternatives must be considered.

There is always turnover in leadership at any church. To ensure that our programs continue to be well led, we need to increase our recruitment, training, and support for all leadership positions so that we can adequately support a larger congregation.

What additional facilities will we need for our future activities and programs? The present is the time to make sure our buildings and grounds meet UUCR's current and future needs, and to plan for changes where needed.

Practice Courageous Giving in support of our Mission and our Beloved Community.

A larger congregation with expanded programs will require additional resources. Staff, facilities, and program costs must be courageously planned for. We must also plan wise stewardship of our existing resources which include physical, financial, and most importantly, human resources.

Do UUCR's present alternative methods for giving offer a full range of opportunities for our members and friends? How might these opportunities be expanded to encourage additional fiscal support?

Practice Courageous Faith as we continue our Lifelong Spiritual Discovery.

In this time of uncertainty, anger, depression, and hope, UUCR must make faith enhancement and faith formation programs available to all of our diverse groups of members and friends.

Our personal faith is likely to be stressed and challenged by today's events and those in the foreseeable future. How can UUCR be responsive to the faith needs of those who count on us for support?

Practice Relationship Building as we work for a Just World.

More than ever before, UUCR will be called upon to support our local and global community in the struggle for social justice and human rights. We currently seek Racial Justice, Immigration Reform, Support of the LGBTQ Community, and Environmental Stewardship. How can we be more active and effective in leading and supporting these efforts? How can we bring together others in the Montgomery County and Washington, DC, area to increase the effectiveness of our efforts?

Perhaps one of the most powerful beacons of UUCR is our fellowship. How can we strengthen the bonds that create our vibrant community, build our diversity, continue to address larger social justice issues, and navigate change?



SHARING THE MINISTRY

Thinking of You

compiled by Judy Eisenhauer on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team provides support for **Melissa Rael** as she continues her difficult journey with ALS. Melissa always enjoys receiving cards at her home.

Libby Sullivan had abdominal surgery in mid-June and is now home after a few weeks in the hospital and rehabilitation. Libby would welcome phone calls.

Eric Burch and family are mourning the death of his mother, Madonna M. Burch.

We offer peace and comfort to **Mary Hoferek** whose sister, Fran Johnson, passed away on June 11 after a long, dogged fight with ovarian cancer.

Jan Popp died on Saturday, June 10, after a long battle with cancer. A memorial service was held at UUCR on June 15. Jan was a member of UUCR for many years and is survived by her daughters Emelia and Rosalia. The family requests that donations be made in her memory to The Nature Conservancy.

Richard Noreikis died on Saturday, June 17, at Montgomery Hospice Casey House with his wife Norma by his side. A memorial service to celebrate Richard's life was held at UUCR on June 29.

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



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Our Vision

The vision of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville is a strong, vibrant, and loving religious community actively engaged in nurturing spiritual freedom and working for social justice.

Our Mission

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

Our Values

- Lifelong Spiritual Discovery
- Beloved Community
- A Just World