
SUNDAY SERVICES

May Theme: LETTING GO

Sunday, May 14, 10:00 a.m.

Mother's Day

An Ounce of Mother

A Spanish proverb wryly notes that “an ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.” In honor of Mother’s Day, we celebrate all the ways in which the maternal figures in our lives shape our journey from child to adult, from one who receives to one who gives and provides, and how these processes mirror our spiritual nature and development. Led by **Rev. Rebekah Montgomery**.

Men of the Adult Choir will sing; **Justin Furnia** on piano.

First Fifteen—All ages will gather in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service before going to classes. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, May 21, 10:00 a.m.

Letting Go of Comfort Zones

Rev. Lynn Strauss will ponder how we live our lives on paths that are comfortable and margins that are not. How do we navigate toward our growing edges...in body, soul, and spirit? Bring your personal experience of “comfort zones” to share. We will have some differently zoned music to sharpen our awareness.

The **Adult Choir** will sing, with guest conductor **Diana Sáez**; **Justin Furnia** on piano.

(continued on page 2)

May 10, 2017

Quest

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

Spiritual Freedom Beloved Community Social Responsibility

Volume LX, Number 9
May 10, 2017

Editor: Alberta Maschal
Desktop Publisher: Adrian Graham

DeLynneations

by Rev. Lynn T. Strauss

May 7, 2017, was a day of turning, tipping and transformation!

The sanctuary was packed for the worship service on “Racism in our UU House.” The children and all of us received band-aids to wear as a reminder of the wounds of racism and how much healing is needed. My sermon described the “white bubble” in which so many of us are comfortable. I spoke of micro-aggressions experienced by UUs of color, and of the [Black Lives UU](#) (BLUU) movement and how their voices are lovingly calling our faith to a renewal that would center the experiences and dreams of UUs of color.



In the “Teach-In” Conversation Circles following the service, over 60 of us stayed to share our pain, confusion, and hope. Several families with young children expressed their dismay that Reverend Rebekah plans to leave our staff in order to seek full-time ministry. Did you know that over 30 families in our congregation identify as multi-racial? Did you know that those families have been especially pleased to have a minister of color as a role model for their children? The board will be pondering this need as we prepare a budget for next year.

The response to the work of the morning was powerful and energized. There was a felt shift toward a major focus for UUCR at this time in our history.

(continued on page 3)

Quest deadline: Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on June 7, 2017.
Email to **Elizabeth Sullivan**.

Quest

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

Staff

Minister: Rev. Lynn Thomas Strauss
Assistant Minister: Rev. Rebekah Montgomery
Director of Religious Education:
Dayna Edwards, M.A.
Director of Music: Grace Cho
Director of Communications & Membership:
Adrian L. H. Graham
Church Administrator: Donna Taylor
Religious Education Assistant: Rena Geibel
Pianist: Justin Furnia

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Editors: Beth Irikura, Alberta Maschal,
Elizabeth Sullivan
Desktop Publisher: Adrian Graham

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(Sunday Services continued from page 1)

Children's Worship & Youth Worship—Preschool through fifth grade will gather in Founders Hall for Children's Worship. Sixth grade through Senior High will go directly to classrooms in the lower level of Building 5. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, May 28, 10:00 a.m.—Memorial Day
Roses in December

Author James Barrie wrote, "God gave us memory so that we might have roses in December." As we honor Memorial Day tomorrow, we remember the Fallen with both moments of appreciation and quiet beauty, and the poignancy of the sorrow that so many carry. Led by **Rev. Montgomery**.

Sonaria will sing; **Justin Furnia** on piano.

First Fifteen—All ages will gather in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service before going to classes. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33.

June Theme: PEACE

Sunday, June 4, 10:00 a.m.
Multigenerational Music Sunday

Come and worship through music this Sunday! Amid the sounds of our **Adult Choir** and **Children's Choir**, **Sonaria**, **Unisons** (our youth ensemble), **meditative drummers**, and **Justin Furnia's** flurrying fingers, come explore what we might do with the energy that we feel in musical moments. Led by **Grace Cho**, Director of Music.

Multigenerational Service—All gather together in the Sanctuary for the entire service. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, June 11, 10:00 a.m.
Multigenerational Flower Communion Service

Join us for a fresh take on our traditional Flower Communion as we celebrate our year together. Bring a flower with you to the service to add to our diverse bouquet...and watch as a beautiful work of art is created. We will honor those who will be moving on to new adventures. Led by **Dayna Edwards**, Director of Religious Education.

Special music by vocalists **André Enceneat**, **Jenny Lyons**, and **Niambi Powell**, with **Bronson Hoover** on piano.

Multigenerational Service—All gather together in the Sanctuary for the entire service. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33.

(DeLynneations continued from page 1)

Looking at our programs within our Immigration Task Force, our intention around Refugee work, our Religious Education priorities, our interfaith work, our [Beloved Conversations](#) groups, our GLBTQ work, our diverse staff, and our 30+ multi-racial families, I believe that UUCR is being called by a spirit of courageous love. I believe this is a call to attend to the twenty-first century work of racial and cultural INCLUSION in new ways. I believe we are poised and ready to lead our faith into this moment of loving possibility. I hope and trust that our response will be bold.

Please hold our UUCR leadership in your hearts, and let them know that they have your support and love.

[Reverend Lynn](#)

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Faith Formation

by Rev. Rebekah Montgomery

The **Adult Faith Formation Committee** is harnessing the powerful message of this year's UUCR Annual Canvas by asking, "What Matters Now" with our library in Fellowship Hall? We have taken some time, under the professional librarian's eye of **Myra Remigio-Leonard**, to review the collection. You may have noticed the orange stickers – these mark books that are older than fifteen years (but not "classics"), have never been circulated, or haven't circulated in the last five years.



So what happens next?

1. You are welcome to peruse the orange-stickered books and take home as many as you wish. A suggested donation of \$1 per book will go towards purchasing new titles for our collection. Any remaining books with orange stickers will be donated.
2. Please consider donating books that have been published in the last three years. UUCR needs it all! LGBTQ+, environmental justice, social justice, poetry, parenting, world religions, UU history, UU theology, spirituality, etc.

With AFF funds and cash donations, the committee will purchase new books. At the AFF tables, please stop by and help us build a wish list of books and topics to seed the revitalized library. Also, [Little Free Libraries](#) are coming to UUCR! New member **Pat Zimmerman** is designing Little Free Libraries (adult- and kid-friendly) that will go at the walkway entrances of the upper and lower parking lots. Even better, the LFL will be created, built, and decorated by UUCR members and with our children and youth during **Makerspace** this summer!

Please consider volunteering to help with Makerspace to create UUCR's own Little Free Libraries! If you're interested, email [Rev. Rebekah](#).

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Reflections

by Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Education

The child who has felt a strong love for his surroundings and for all living creatures, who has discovered joy and enthusiasm in work, gives us reason to hope that humanity can develop in a new direction.

-Maria Montessori

In the fall, we will be implementing a different model of religious education for our kindergarten – third graders called “[Spirit Play](#).” **Please keep reading** even if you don’t have a child in that age group. This is a shift in the milieu of how we “do” religious education at UUCR and you can join us on this new journey. The RE Transition Team made the wise and bold recommendation to move to *Spirit Play* in the report they presented to the board in October of 2015.



Spirit Play allows both the child and the adult in the classroom to honor the divine and holy nature of storytelling and artistry in an accessible way. Developed by Rev. Nita Penfold as a UU version of a Montessori-based Christian method of RE, *Spirit Play* takes the best of the Montessori Teaching Method and aligns it with our UU principles.

There are three factors that make *Spirit Play* a wonderful way to do RE for our little ones.

Ritual: Children, as a rule, love ritual and routine. *Spirit Play* has many rituals built into the method that allow children the space they need to tap into their spiritual nature. Each Sunday, the children will hear a scripted story with small props told by a “storyteller” (if you can read from a script you can be a storyteller). After hearing the story, the children will choose a “work” with a spiritual connection as a way to respond to the story. There is a specific way that children enter and leave the room; a specific way the story is presented; a specific way the chalice is lit; a specific way they choose their work for the day. The adult leaders, once they learn the rituals, have less to prepare and coordinate on a given Sunday than in the traditional model of RE.

The Prepared Environment: The classroom is set up and prepared to be child-centered. Work is on shelving that is accessible to the children and easy for little hands to use. The classroom is almost seen as a mini-sanctuary and the environment is set up in such a way that it promotes spiritual contemplation. The prepared environment of the classroom is meant to be both engaging and peaceful, and thus promotes calm behavior in the children. There will be various centers, such as the art center which might have water colors and other art supplies. The contemplation center may have a rock garden, a finger labyrinth, and kinetic sand. The UU Identity center might have a stole, a hymnal, and a chalice for the children to dress as the minister.

Follow the Child: We know that children develop on a spectrum and there is no one-size fits all for our children. Our RE programming should reflect that knowledge. Therefore, *Spirit Play* does not ask all the children to do the same thing at once after they hear the story. The children can respond to the story in a way that feels most natural to them. In *Spirit Play*, the child is the center of the classroom and the adults are there as guides. After preparing the environment, and telling the story, the adults watch and listen while the children use their chosen work from centers. They listen for those who may need a bit of guidance as to what work to choose, or how to use particular materials. The adults don’t give answers, but ask “wondering” questions to help the children discern the best way to move forward.

Sound exciting? Weird? Interesting? [Join us for a full-day training](#) on *Spirit Play* at UUCR on June 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to find out more. The training is free to members and friends of UUCR. If you attend the training we do ask that you *consider* being a consistent adult (about two Sundays per month) in a *Spirit Play* classroom in the fall. Go to www.tinyurl.com/uucrsptraining for more information and to register.

Dayna

May 10, 2017

Quest — 4

CONGREGATION WORKS

From the Board

by Ellen Rohan, Board President

It's hard to imagine that the time has come to write our April Board meeting summary. Your Board of Trustees has had a busy and productive year this year. More about that at our Annual Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on May 21.



BOARD MEETING

At our April Board meeting, we enjoyed inviting several guests to present reports and updates. Steve Reed represented the Investment Committee and briefed us on the changes that committee is proposing to how UUCR invests our money. Many years ago, our investments were handled by our Investment Committee. Then, UUA offered a similar service and we moved to their program. Recently, we have moved back to having our own group, the Investment Committee, manage our own finances. Please read [Quest](#) further for more details. We also welcomed our Canvass Co-chairs, Nancy Blum and Bill Hurlbut, to update us on the status of the Canvass. Again, please find more information about the Canvass in any of the wide variety of ways Bill and Nancy have been sharing with us. We ended our meeting with a very rich discussion about Membership at UUCR including the Membership Roll Review Policy and the Membership Policy, which are both being revised this spring.

Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck

Sunday, May 21 ~ Potluck at 5:00 p.m. & Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Please mark your calendars!

The main topics will be the election of new members to the Board of Trustees, a report on Membership: Membership Policy, Membership Roll Review Policy, Conflict Resolution Policy and members of the Conflict Resolution Team, and an update of our 5 Year Future Plan including an affirmation of our new UUCR Mission statement. Candidate bios are available on page 11 of the [April 12, 2017 issue of Quest](#).

The potluck begins at 5:00 p.m. in Founders Hall. All are welcome to share food and fellowship. You may use the following alphabetical guide to decide what to bring. A- F: Salads or Bread G-P: Main Dish Q-Z: Dessert. Even if you cannot contribute a dish, come anyway! We always have plenty.

For more details, visit the Annual Congregational Meeting web page:

www.uucr.org/annualmeeting.

CONGREGATION WORKS

An Update from the Committee on Ministry

by Cita Furlani, Chair

The Committee on Ministry works with our minister, assistant minister, and members of the congregation to care for and strengthen the overall ministry of the church. We serve as a communication link between members and friends of the congregation and Reverend Lynn Strauss and Reverend Rebekah Montgomery.

At the request of the Board, the Committee on Ministry reviewed and revised the UUCR Conflict Resolution Policy. Our proposed revision was recently approved by the Board and is now available online by clicking [here](#). A Conflict Resolution Team, as described in Step 3 of the newly revised policy, is being formed. The members of this team will be trained in conflict resolution and will be available as needed.

Please contact a member of the Committee on Ministry if you have questions. Our members are: Cita Furlani (chair), Steve Einhorn, Ricardo Carvajal, and Rolf Preisendorfer. Our contact information can be found in the UUCR directory.

Wanted...

by Grace Cho, Director of Music

The music program is in need of a full, preferably Yamaha, electronic keyboard, because our old one has stopped working. We use this keyboard for the Children's Choir and other groups who need to rehearse in spaces where there is no piano. If anyone has a keyboard (and a stand, if possible) to donate, that would be awesome! Please contact [Grace Cho](#).



Legacy Sunday

by Sherry Dittman, Planned Giving Committee

In order to concentrate fully on the service about how UUs are dealing with racial diversity as part of the larger culture and on the Conversation Circles that took place after the service on May 7, our celebration of **Legacy Sunday** was postponed and will now take place on **May 28**.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Beacon House News...

by Alberta Maschal

The Rev. is retiring! Twenty-five years ago Reverend Donald Robinson (Rev. to all who know and love him) envisioned a place where children could come to learn in a safe environment. That place is [Beacon House](#). Rev. was an intern at UUCR when we were known as UCR (Unitarian Church of Rockville); and UUCR, together with the congregations around the beltway, supported his dream with time, treasure, and talent. There will be a 25th Anniversary Event on June 17 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Edgewood Arts Center, 3415 8th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017 to celebrate 25 years of helping children and to honor Rev. Tickets are \$50.00 and seating is limited. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.beaconhousedc.org/25th-anniversary.



Beacon House teen authors participated in a panel – *Black Lit Matters: Unheard Voices on Race and Criminal Justice* – to discuss their soon-to-be published book, *The Day Tajon Got Shot*. The panel was part of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs conference, the largest literacy conference in North America. The novel was written by ten teenage girls from Beacon House with support from Shout Mouse Press. The book launch is Tuesday, May 30 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Brookland Busboys and Poets.

Beacon House has rekindled a tutoring partnership with [For Love of Children](#) (FLOC). They are seeking tutors for the fall to tutor in Reading and Math. Tutor volunteers attend special training and must commit for the entire school year. If you are interested, check the Beacon House website www.beaconhousedc.org for the form to fill out.

More exciting news: Rodney Cephas, Beacon House Athletic Director, was honored by the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation as one of its 2017 Volunteers of the Year. Rodney is the force behind the successful athletics program at Beacon House and we all are grateful for his dedication to the youth there.

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Thinking of You

compiled by Judy Eisenhauer on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team

Stephanie Joseph requests prayers for improved health.

Liliane Floge and **Steve Crawford** are happy to announce that their daughter, **Pascal**, will be attending St. Olaf College in Minnesota in the fall.

Julie Forrest is mourning the death of her sweetheart and true love, Robert Michael Lawrence, who died April 16 at age 64. He is survived by a sister and brother. A memorial service celebrating Robert's life was held on April 29 at UUCR.

All are welcome to attend a memorial service for **Myra Tate** at UUCR on Saturday, May 13, at 2:00 p.m.

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 engage one another in a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service and joy. We aim to:

- Nurture, sustain and challenge people to grow spiritually and find meaning in their lives through worship, religious education, social and creative opportunities;
- Grow together as a multi-generational, diverse and inclusive community;
- Lead social justice, community service and outreach activities to positively transform our community.