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## WORSHIP SERVICES

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**December Theme: LOVE**

**Sunday, Dec 10, 10:00 a.m.**

*Love Lifts Us*

The Sufi mystic Hafiz wrote, "I once asked a bird, how is it that you fly in this gravity of darkness? She responded, 'love lifts me'." When our strength fails us, where do we turn? How do we nourish ourselves and others to move towards spiritual centering? Led by **Rev. Rebekah Savage**.

**WildBerry Jam** will sing, accompanied by **Dick Gilbert**; **Grace Cho & Justin Furnia** on piano.

First Fifteen & Rehearsal—All ages will gather in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service. Pre-K children and high school youth will then go to classes; all other children will go to Founders Hall for pageant rehearsal and theater-related games. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33. Parents of Preschool through 3rd Grade are asked to collect their children prior to 11:15 a.m.

**Sunday, Dec 17, 10:00 a.m.**

INTERGENERATIONAL  
PAGEANT

Join us for an exploration of the spirit of the winter holiday season. The **UUCR Children and Youth** will lead us in a UU adaptation of the O. Henry story, "The Gift of the Magi," including our own **Intergenerational Pageant Choir!**

*(continued on page 2)*

December 6, 2017

# Quest

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

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*Lifelong Spiritual Discovery Beloved Community A Just World*

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Volume LXI, Number 4  
December 6, 2017

Editor & Publisher:  
Adrian L. H. Graham

## *DeLynneations*

*by Rev. Lynn T. Strauss*



As winter approaches and we anticipate radiant skies,  
As Hanukkah approaches and we light candles of miracles,  
As Christmas approaches and we sing of the birth of hope,  
May memories of night's blessings shelter us in love.

*When I scan other skies for signs of hope,  
And when I walk other paths with a longing for home,  
May divine love guide me back through my own door.*

*Tell me my forgotten stories,  
Feed me the words I have given away,  
And draw my gaze from the far horizon  
That I may see the lights in my own sky.*

—Jan Richardson

May peace be with you this season,

*Reverend Lynn*

*Quest* deadline: Thursday, **February 1, 2018** at 8:00 p.m.,  
for mailing on **February 7, 2018**.  
Email to [quest@uucr.org](mailto:quest@uucr.org)

# Quest

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

## Staff

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

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Editors: Beth Irikura, Elizabeth Sullivan  
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*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.  
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*(Worship Services continued from page 1)*

**Grace Cho & Justin Furnia** on piano.

Multigenerational Service—All gather together in the Sanctuary for the entire service. Loving care is provided to the youngest members of our community (infant—3 years) in Building 3, Room 33.

**Sunday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.**

*Winter Solstice Celebration*

We gather to honor this darkest time of the year, acknowledging and welcoming the coming light with music, ritual, reflection, food, and fellowship. All are welcome! Please wear comfortable clothing that permits movement and brief outdoor activity. Bring a poem or reading if you wish, and maybe a small contribution to the reception afterwards. Contact **Lisa Reed** or **Cynthia Shires-Thurston** to learn more.

**Sunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m.**

*A Morning in Winter*

Join us this morning for a service of poetry, readings, stories, and songs.

Informal Service—We will gather in an informal setting, with all ages welcome. Sunday School classes will not meet.

**Sunday, December 24, 4:30 p.m.**

Family-friendly Christmas Eve Service

*Little Drummer Boy—The Gifts We Bring*

Candle lighting, special music, and the singing of carols. A family-friendly service that celebrates the gifts we all bring to the world. **Rev. Rebekah Savage** will offer a Christmas Eve homily, *The Gifts We Bring*—whether humble or lavish, tis the season of sharing of our gifts and homes with our loved ones. Perhaps the most valuable gifts of the season are the ones we give and receive from the heart. We resist with love the temptations of overindulgent consumerism and intend with love to focus on the spiritual blessings of the season.

There will be a cookie reception following the service—please bring cookies to share on a serving plate!

*(continued on page 10)*



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## FAITH FORMATION

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### *Reflections*

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

The best part of the holiday season is all the various traditions that get dusted off and pulled back out year after year. In my house it's the same ornaments, the same stockings, the same recipes, the same songs, and even the same performances. Every year my girls perform scenes from the Nutcracker. Traditions become even more important during the winter holiday season, in my opinion, because they can be grounding and centering at a time of year that can feel overwhelming and massive. Especially as the world changes so rapidly around us, it is nice to know that we always do <fill in the blank> in December.

We can also use this time to examine traditions. We can look closely to see who is left out of a tradition, or who is served by doing things "the way they've always been done." Last year, the Children's Worship team did just that, and together we decided to modify the beloved tradition of the UUCR Christmas pageant to be more welcoming and inclusive. We noticed that many people who don't celebrate Christmas might feel left out when we tell the story of the Nativity twice in one month – both on the Sunday before Christmas and then again on Christmas Eve. Yet, we also noticed that having no pageant at all would leave the children out of a sacred time when they are front and center in the worship service. So how could we be most inclusive and make room for everyone?

Let's keep the intergenerational spirit of the pageant, we thought, and tell a holiday story that captures the universal good feeling of the holiday season without privileging a specific religious tradition. Let's try it, we agreed. If we don't like it, we can always go back to the same two scripts we've used in the past. They will always be there for us. People who find meaning and spiritual grounding in the story of Jesus' birth can still hear that story at the Christmas Eve service. The children and youth will still be invited to participate in our family-friendly Christmas Eve service as well. On December 17, the children and youth will participate in a dramatic re-telling of the classic holiday story, "The Gift of the Magi," by O. Henry.

There is much to celebrate in the winter holiday season. Together we can honor our lasting traditions and make room for new traditions.

Blessed be,

*Dayna*



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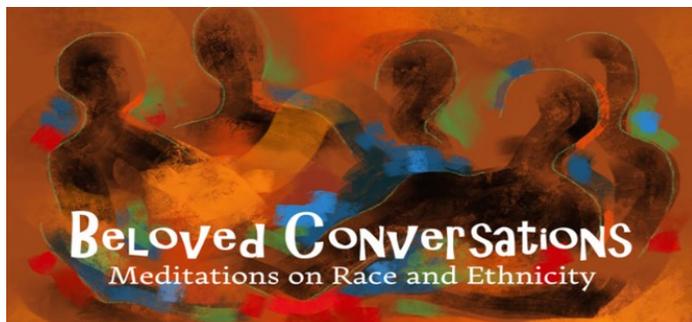
## FAITH FORMATION

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### Beloved Conversations

by Lisa Fredin



UUCR's new mission statement, "Practice Courageous Love," is not just a way to guide our programs, but a call to action for all of us! Beloved Conversations is a program developed to tackle issues of multiculturalism by facilitating personal spiritual growth in a small group setting. Whether you are new to social justice or have been a stalwart activist for years, let's each locate our assumptions about race and eth-

nicity, learn to live better together in our multiracial, multicultural, and often theologically diverse communities, and prepare ourselves to take effective action!

Participants are asked to attend the retreat & all eight seminars. The retreat will take place **Friday, February 9, 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 10, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, with meals and childcare provided. The eight subsequent two-hour sessions will be scheduled according to participants' needs (approximately February – June). More information and a short video about the program are available at the website (<http://www.meadville.edu/beloved>). Sponsored by UUCR's **Racial Justice Working Group & Adult Faith Formation Committee**, there is a suggested donation of \$35 per person.

If you are interested in learning more or participating, please contact: **Fran Lowe** or **Lisa Fredin**.

### Small Group Ministry

by Rev. Rebekah A. Savage

Are you looking to deepen your understanding and connection to your faith and UUCR? Seeking a place to be known and get to know other UUCR members? Need a little "me time" to focus on your spiritual path? Come join a Small Group Ministry!



Small Group Ministry is a vital part of many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Groups of 3-8 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics. Small groups are great places to get to know other people and to get to know yourself. Over time, participants build deep connections with one another, with the congregation, and with the sacred.

The session topics each month follow the worship theme, and conversation is respectful and caring, leading to greater understanding. In each session, facilitated by a member of the congregation, all participants have an opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: groups begin and end with centering readings and often include a time of silence before the sharing begins.

Interested in joining a Small Group? Contact [Rev. Rebekah](#).

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## FAITH FORMATION

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### Film & Discussion Series—Power to the People

by Julie Graf

The **UUCR Young Adult Group** is sponsoring a film and discussion series dedicated to the premise that pop culture is a vessel for understanding and loving the outsider. Join us on **Saturday, December 9** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 50 for a screening of *The King of Kong—A Fistful of Quarters* (2007). This documentary takes us to the video arcade and follows the saga of two gamers competing for the *Donkey Kong* world record—one, a sad guy who can never get a break, the other, an obnoxious champion that the system repeatedly favors. Are there areas of our lives where our competitive instincts get in the way of our capacity for compassion? And how do certain systems benefit us over others? Ages 13-plus; popcorn and drinks provided.



#### SCHEDULE OF FILMS

December 9, 2017:

*The King of Kong - A Fistful of Quarters* (2007)

January 13, 2018: *Style Wars* (1983)

February 10, 2018: *KISS Loves You* (2004)

March 17, 2018: *A Band Called Death* (2012)

April 14, 2018: *Dogtown and Z-Boys* (2001)

May 12, 2018: *Heavy Metal in Baghdad* (2007)

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## SHARING THE MINISTRY

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### The Art on Our Walls

by Liliane Blom and Sharrill Dittmann, Aesthetics Committee

Our current artist is [Rick Ruggles](#), who has been aware of patterns and details in the world around him for most of his life. He's been capturing images of such subject matter for years, often in different themes over time. Rick began his Found Hearts project in earnest in 2001 when capturing an image of a heart-shaped pothole, and he then captured other "found heart" images nearby; that collection now numbers over ten thousand. Rick likes the notion that love is all around us, which we notice when we slow down and open our eyes.



Rick's latest project features rust and other weathered surfaces. He delights in the unusual shapes, colors, and textures that result from metal oxidation. The Tibetan term *Miksang*, seeing the world in a different way—noticing the simplest small details in the world, when fully engaged in the present moment—begins to describe Rick's attraction to detail. Along with the ideals of Minimalism, it's also about discovering simple beauty in the most humble of forms, materials, and shadows.

Rick draws on his experiences in art, construction, music, and metalworking in his art. He also attributes his attraction to shape, shadow, and detail to his schooling in geology, which trained him to notice patterns in the world around him.

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## SHARING THE MINISTRY

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### *Membership Musings*

by Adrian L. H. Graham, Director of Communications & Membership

This issue of *Quest* is the last before we embark on our journey into two services, come January 7. The average Sunday morning participation across the UUCR campus continues to creep higher and higher toward that magic number—80% of capacity—at which it is recommended that congregations add a second service so that there is space, physical and otherwise, for new folks to be embraced comfortably.

Yes, new folks continue to flock to UUCR! We want to continue this momentum, of course. Please review the opportunities listed on page 11 and sign up in at least one way to strengthen what we are already doing so well. Unitarian Universalism has the capacity to literally save lives. With all of the anxieties and worries of today's society, let us make it possible for us to widen the circle and to embrace even more people into this community of faith.

Since I last wrote to you in September, we have welcomed the following twelve wonderful people into membership at UUCR: Claudia Blackburn & Holly Kylen; Stephanie & Tom Bozzo (and their children, Damon, Shane, and Desmond); Anne Byrd; Bobbie Karpf; Sandy Larkin; Melissa Marousek (and her child, Jaxen); Sandra Rodriguez (and her children, Teegan and Kylen); Betsy Wilder; Andrew Wilson & Anna Helland (and their children, Isak and Freya).

Our next **Newcomer Brunch with the Minister(s)** will be held on **January 28** following the 11:15 a.m. service.

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### *A Faith to Work By*

*I must confess that for me the pace has been slow. The gains have been small in my quest for God, my quest for a faith. I am still far from the goal. But still I seek.*

*Out of all the tragedy and the doubt, I do believe that I emerged perhaps one step forward. From experience I know that there are contrasts in living – and of these contrasts there can be found a good life. A life of peace, of goodwill, of decency ... of love, of harmony, and of beauty. The attributes of a good life can be attained by the conscious will and desire of the individual.*

*This conscious effort to achieve the good life might be considered a religion. I can share in a religion like this.*

*Personally, I want a religion to live by. I want a faith to work by.*

~ Dr. Errold D. Collymore, UU Lay Leader

### **Thinking of You**

compiled by Judy Eisenhauer on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team

**Dave Marks** is showing improvement after complications from surgery in early November. He thanks the UUCR community for many cards and calls.

Polly Campbell wishes to congratulate her daughter, **Ellen Cooper**, who is back from Nepal after reaching her goal to hike to the Mount Everest Basecamp at 18,000 feet.

Happy 98th birthday greetings to **Polly Campbell** on December 9!

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



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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

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### **New Habits and New Traditions—MLK Jr. Day of Service**

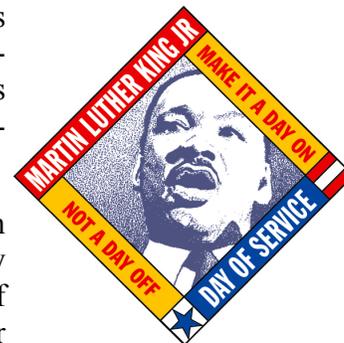
by *Rena Geibel, Religious Education Coordinator*

How many times must you do something to make it a habit? Researchers have suggested it takes more than two months to make a new behavior become a habit. For some, it takes as long as 254 days. Of course, it varies widely depending upon the person, the activity, and surrounding circumstances. Basically, it can take a long time for habits to form!

What about traditions? How many years must you repeat the same thing in order to call it a tradition? Last year, my family started a new tradition by participating in the Montgomery County Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Yes, I call it a tradition. We look beyond our family, beyond our walls, to serve others.

The year, UUCR will join the Montgomery County Volunteer Center as we plan projects benefiting county organizations and the local community. We will honor Dr. King's life and teachings on **Monday, January 15, 2018** from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in UUCR's Founders Hall, by making paracord bracelets for the military, writing letters to veterans, decorating cards for seniors, making pet toys for the Humane Society, and creating Thoughtful Treasures for the Children's Inn at the National Institute of Health.

If you are interested in helping supervise an activity table, please contact [Rena Geibel](#). Otherwise, I hope you join me in this tradition!



### **Free Film Screening & Panel Discussion**

by *Steve Lapham*

The documentary film *Life in Occupied Palestine* will be shown at UUCR at 2:30 p.m. on **Sunday, January 21, 2018**, followed by a moderated panel discussion and audience Q&A. This encore showing is sponsored by the Voices of the Holy Land annual film series. For details, visit their website: [voicesfromtheholylan.org](http://voicesfromtheholylan.org).

In this film, Anna Baltzer, a Jewish-American Columbia graduate and Fulbright Scholar, presents her discoveries as a volunteer with the International Women's Peace Service in the West Bank, documenting human rights abuses and supporting Palestinian-led nonviolent resistance to the Occupation. This short (57-minute) film provides a viewpoint not often seen in Western media sources, and encourages dialogue towards taking action on the issue. Topics discussed include checkpoints, settlements, Israeli activism, Zionism, the 1948 War and refugees, censorship, the Wall, the ongoing annexation of Palestinian land, and the almost unbearable living conditions under the occupation.

Baltzer ([www.annainthemiddleeast.com](http://www.annainthemiddleeast.com)) says her film "is an introduction—in a down-to-earth, non-alienating way—to the occupation in Palestine and the nonviolent movement for freedom and equality in the Holy Land." She has been interviewed on the *Daily Show*, and her letters and articles have been published in the *Huffington Post*, *Washington Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Information Clearing House*, and *If Americans Knew*. Her book is *Witness in Palestine: A Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories*.

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## AROUND THE BELTWAY

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### Multicultural Welcome—A Workshop

by Adrian Graham, Director of Communications & Welcome

Join me and two Unitarian Universalist ministers at **Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church** on **Saturday, February 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** as we offer a training workshop on *Multicultural Welcome* that is especially geared toward membership professionals, greeters, ushers, and other lay leaders.

*“Do you welcome? Want to know how to better welcome people of various identities to our UU communities? Through experiential learning, this workshop aims to help greeters and membership professionals better anticipate the needs and wishes of guests by staying open to hearing them. We’ll learn how to move away from our assumptions and become better accustomed to putting those preconceived notions on hold in favor of authentic listening and acceptance. Open to anyone who welcomes!”*

The cost of the training is \$20 and includes lunch. You may request a partial or full waiver of the fee if you need it to attend this workshop. Childcare is offered at no charge. Deadline for childcare requests is January 26, 2018.

Brought to you by **Rev. Megan Foley**, UUA staff; **Rev. Katie Romano Griffin**, Assistant Minister, Cedar Lane UU Church; and **Adrian Graham**, Director of Communications & Membership, UUCR; this workshop is based on a [resource](#) created by Janice Marie Johnson, Rev. Alicia Forde, Susanna Whitman, and India McKnight for the Unitarian Universalist Association. Register today at <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/z1f9hz5o12p101b/>.

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## CONGREGATION WORKS

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### Staff Transition

by Rev. Lynn T. Strauss

Dear UUCR Members and Friends,

With appreciation for her time with us as Director of Music, it is with sadness that Grace Cho has decided to leave her position at UUCR at the end of December. The New Orchestra of Washington, which she and her husband founded here in DC is thriving, and Grace is to become their full-time Executive Director on January 1, 2018. We celebrate her time with us.



Be assured that I am already in close conversation with a strong potential Interim Director of Music who is likely to begin with UUCR on January 1, 2018. The spirit works in mysterious ways, and our Beloved Community continues to embrace change and grow in body and spirit.

Come at either 9:00 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. on January 7 to meet our new music director!

In Blessing,

*Reverend Lynn*

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## CONGREGATION WORKS

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### **November/December Partner Plate Recipient: Montgomery Hospice**

*by Terri Fritz*

UUCR is sharing the November and December offerings with Montgomery Hospice. Its mission is *to gentle the journey through serious illness and loss with skill and compassion*. This nonprofit organization provides medical care and emotional support for terminally-ill patients and their family members. Each year, it cares for more than 2,100 individuals throughout the county, mostly in their homes, whether that is a private residence, assisted living facility, or nursing home.

Patients are visited by nurses, hospice aides, social workers, non-denominational chaplains, and volunteers on a schedule determined by the individual's needs. In addition, medications, medical equipment, and supplies are provided. Nurses are available 24/7, and patients are encouraged to call any time they have concerns. For those whose symptoms cannot be relieved at home, Casey House, located on Muncaster Mill Road, is available. There, patients receive 24-hour monitoring, and treatments are adjusted so they may return home.

Annually, more than 6,000 family members of patients and others in the community who are grieving are offered care by professional counselors. They stay in touch by phone and mail for more than a year after the loss. Also, support groups and workshops are offered to anyone who has experienced a loss.

Although most patients have coverage through Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance, care is provided regardless of a patient's insurance status or financial resources. In addition to caring for uninsured patients, there are several important programs for which the hospice is not compensated or not compensated sufficiently. These include Casey House, pediatric hospice care, complementary therapies (holistic adjuncts to medical care using aroma, touch, and music), and professional grief support.

Several current and former Montgomery Hospice employees and volunteers attend UUCR, including this author. We are proud to work with an incredible group of compassionate experts—the end-of-life Sherpas to whom I referred in my introduction at the November 5 worship service. They care for so many of our neighbors. Please contribute as you are able to help them continue their important work in our community.

Montgomery  
HOSPICE

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## CONGREGATION WORKS

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### *The New Year*

**On January 7, 2018, UUCR will offer worship services at both 9:00 a.m. AND 11:15 a.m.**

The Middle Hour, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., will be filled with something for everyone.

We need you to join in!

Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors—there will be room for many more to share in our  
*Beloved Community.*

*(Worship Services continued from page 2)*

**Sunday, December 24, 8:30 p.m.**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Adult Choir

*Love Incarnate*

Our choir will sing and **Rev. Lynn Strauss** will offer a Christmas sermon, “Love Incarnate”. Join us to sing carols and rest in the glow of our sanctuary. A cookie reception will follow the service – please bring cookies to share on a serving plate, and stay and visit with friends new and old!

**Sunday, December 31, 10:00 a.m.**

*Poetry, PJ’s, and Pancakes*

Poetry expresses the infinite with brevity and raw emotion. Poetry can inspire and change how we see the world. Come in your favorite PJ’s with a beloved poem or two and we will enjoy a casual service together. We are honored to have some of the Tool Time Gents treat us to a pancake breakfast prior to the service. Come be fed in body and soul! Led by **Rev. Rebekah Savage**.

Informal Service—We will gather in an informal setting, with all ages welcome. Sunday School classes will not meet.

**January Theme: DISCOVERY**

**Sunday, January 7, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.**

*The Promises We Make*

Welcome to the new year at UUCR. **Rev. Lynn Strauss** will reflect on the promises we make in the new year, and the promise that the new year might bring to us all. (Donuts from 8:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. only...)

The **UUCR Choir** will sing under the direction of our new Interim Music Director. **Justin Fumia** on piano.

Multigenerational Service—All gather together in the Sanctuary for the entire service.

Join in the Middle Hour choices, including Emerson’s Sunrise Coffee Circle (conversation), Spirit of Life Sangha (meditation), and Intergenerational Improv with **Andy Moore** and **Caroline Pettit**.

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## CONGREGATION WORKS

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### Your Service is Needed for Our Success

*When?* Beginning January 2018, at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

*Where?* At UUCR on Sundays.

*Why?* Making two services happen every Sunday.

*How?* By saying "Yes, I'll help" and signing up!

As UUCR prepares to go to two services each Sunday, we are looking to **expand the team of sound volunteers**. Currently, each volunteer runs the sound about once every 5 or 6 weeks on average. When we go to two services, you will have the option of doing both services on your chosen Sundays, or doing one of the two.

Running the sound board is not hard, and our efforts make a real contribution to the quality of the services. Training will be provided, of course. Currently all of the sound volunteers are guys, and there's really no good reason for this! Of course we'll welcome volunteers of any gender—and it would be great to diversify the team. If you're interested, please contact **Mike Holmes**.

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Ushers contribute a valuable service each Sunday by providing a warm welcome to our regular congregants and visitors. Among other duties, ushers distribute the Order of Service to those entering the Sanctuary, collect the offering, and perform other tasks as requested by the Ministers. Most importantly, ushers truly enjoy our opportunity to 'meet and greet' each Sunday.

We are **in need of additional ushers** when we transition to two services in January. Although ushers volunteer for a specific Sunday, substitutes are readily available when needed. Additionally, substitute ushers are needed to fill in only 'as needed.' If you have any questions or are interested in an usher position, or becoming a Situation Leader, please contact **Patty Walker**.

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For details and to sign up to serve as a **Greeter, Choir Member, RE Volunteer, Hospitality Team member, Worship Steward, Decorations Team member, or Middle Hour Docent**—or to become more deeply engaged in congregational life here at UUCR in other ways, please contact Director of Communications & Membership [Adrian Graham](#) TODAY! He will connect you with the right person (s) to get you started. Working all together, our transition to two services in January will be a great success!

**This information and additional ongoing updates are available on our website at [www.uucr.org/two-services-transition](http://www.uucr.org/two-services-transition). Check there often for opportunities to help us succeed!**

## *Quest*

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

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December 6, 2017

DATED MATERIAL

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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