
WORSHIP SERVICES

November Theme: STRUGGLE

Sun, Nov 11, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

We Practice What We Preach, but...What Do We Preach?

The way we live our values in community matters. It “preaches” what we believe. Renowned Unitarian Universalist theologian James Luther Adams observed that how we organize our churches is what we believe. In this sermon we will reflect on history to consider how we preach in our congregations and lives today. Led by guest preacher **Dr. Pippin Whitaker**.

Dr. Whitaker is the ministerial intern at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, VA. She will complete her Master of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School in May 2019, at the close of her internship. Pippin lives near Vienna, VA with her spouse and three children.

Special music by **Sonaria**, and by the **Family FUUN Ensemble**. **Justin Furnia**, piano.

First Fifteen—Three to four Sundays a month, all ages* join in worship in the Sanctuary for the “First Fifteen” minutes, after which those in pre-K through 5th grade follow their teachers to their classrooms.

(continued on page 2)

Quest

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

Lifelong Spiritual Discovery Beloved Community A Just World

Volume LXII, Number 3
November 7, 2018

Editor & Publisher:
Adrian L. H. Graham

ArtsConnect Recap

by Bronson Hoover, Music Committee Chair

On October 21 our congregation began a new journey connecting the arts, both visual and musical, with issues of our day. *ArtsConnect* is a new program at UUCR that will occur a few times a year. It gives artists of all stripes – professional, amateur, young, and old – a venue to contribute to the conversation. For the first *ArtsConnect*, that conversation was about gun violence in our society.

The musical guest was Wendel Werner from Knoxville, TN. He put on a fun show with a little blues, boogie-woogie, and pop songs. A dynamic pianist and a passionate vocalist, Mr. Warner did a great job including the enthusiastic audience, and he spoke to the topic at hand: gun violence. After his performance, the crowd was invited to view the original artwork throughout the Corridor and in Founders Hall. Everyone was invited to create artwork on t-shirts that were hung throughout the exhibit. There was a huge buffet of sandwiches and snacks on hand, and we even served beer and wine.

For this first event, we partnered with the [Traron Center](#). Their motto is: “Helping those affected by gun violence heal through the arts.” It was very powerful hearing their founder and president, Ryane B. Nickens (pictured), speak to their mission and to her personal connection to gun violence. Through the generous free-will donations given by the audience, we were able to raise nearly \$900 for this worthy organization.



ArtsConnect has the potential to be a foundational program at UUCR. It’s a venue to invite the community at large into our warm space. It’s an opportunity to show the residents in our surrounding neighborhood, and in Rockville in general, what we have to offer to those in need of a community embrace.

(continued on page 3)

Quest deadline: Thursday, **November 29, 2018** at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on **December 5, 2018**.
Email to quest@uucr.org

Quest

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Congregation of Rockville**
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(Worship Services continued from page 1)

Parents of pre-K through 3rd grade are asked to sign their children out from classes promptly at the end of worship; children in 4th grade and up will be dismissed to find their parents at the end of class. *Nursery care for infants—3-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, November 18, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

MULTIGENERATIONAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Class Struggle & Hunger: How Welcome Is Our Table?

Let us give thanks for our blessings and consider how we can share our abundance with others. Director of Religious Education **Carla Miller** will lead us in a children's story throughout the service. Remember to bring food for the Thanksgiving Baskets!

The **Adult Choir** will sing, with guest musician **Lea Morris**, guitar & vocals.

Multigenerational Service—All* gather together in the Sanctuary for this service. *Nursery care for infants—3-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, November 25, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

My People?

We are a community of people with a mission to practice courageous love. As we honor "struggle" as a spiritual theme for the month of November, how does Unitarian Universalist culture shape our engagement in the world and with each other? With each admirable quality of living our UU faith comes the shadow side to wrestle with. **Rev. Rebekah Savage** will preach.

Special music by **Andy Zatman**, piano.

Multigenerational Service—see above.

December Theme: THRESHOLD

Sunday, December 2, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

MITTEN TREE SUNDAY & GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Bright Light of Hope

As we enter the season of dark and winter, we string lights outside and inside our homes. As we tell the story of Hanukkah, let us think about how our own light shines in the darkness. **Rev. Lynn Strauss** will preach.

Special music by guest musician **Liz Carlson**, vocals. **Justin Furnia** on piano.

First Fifteen—see above.

SHARING THE MINISTRY

DeLynneations

by Rev. Lynn Strauss

STRUGGLE is our Worship Theme for this month of November 2018. As we respond to the hate and division spilling from the Oval Office and pulling us all closer to despair, let us be aware of the resistance and solidarity that is building among those who love democracy and the values of our founding documents. Be aware that we are not alone in the struggle to bend the moral arc of our nation ever closer to justice.



Here are some actions of hope and love to inspire us all:

1. Occupy Wall Street – innovative resistance to economic inequality.
2. MoveOn.org – created a listserv of 8 million.
3. ACLU – the American Civil Liberties Union; a spike in membership, donations, and training in organizing.
4. The Dreamers – actions by Latinx youth suddenly targeted for deportation; support for immigrant rights.
5. Black Lives Matter – resisting the killing of black and brown people at the hands of the police, outing pervasive white supremacy.
6. Keystone Pipeline Protest – resisting the rape of the earth.
7. Marriage Equality and Trans Rights – struggle for dignity and rights for all people.
8. Election of 2016 – record turnout of young voters and voters of color.
9. Gun Control Advocacy – leadership and voices of Parkland teens.
10. Women’s March – over 3 million marched, protesting inauguration of President.
11. Planned Parenthood – growth in membership and donations.
12. Revival of Poor People’s Campaign – led by Reverend Barber.
13. Solidarity Shabbat – solidarity response following Pittsburgh synagogue shooting with 11 fatalities.

In the civil rights and anti-war struggles of the 1960s and ‘70s, words of solidarity were often spoken. We would sign off with this call to continued resistance: “KEEP THE FAITH.”
So may it be.

Blessings,

Reverend Lynn

(ArtsConnect Recap continued from page 1)

With the combination of music and visual arts, there’s something for everyone. With the focus on the issues of the day, it gives people an artistic avenue to express their thoughts and beliefs.

The next *ArtsConnect* will be held on January 27. I hope you can all join us for this event. For more information, check out the UUCR Music website: <https://uucrmusic.weebly.com>.

Wendel’s performance at UUCR held everyone in attendance in rapt attention, and his music was a powerful medium for the anti-gun violence message being conveyed as part of ArtsConnect.

~Carolyn Randall, audience member

I talked to several people who said, essentially, it was a breath of fresh air to come to a place where art was being shared and created. Such an appreciated respite from the current stress in the larger world!

~Mary Carvajal, Vice President, UUCR Board of Trustees

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Notes from the Desk of the Associate Minister

by Rev. Rebekah Savage

Last week, I had a night of dreams where everything I tried, everything I did, nothing worked. I was getting nowhere. I was frustrated and exhausted in my dream and I woke up the next morning in a sweat and tense from head to toe, feeling fraught and on edge. I loathe starting the day that way, so I considered where all this angst and these disempowering feelings were coming from and had to go no further than listening to the morning news. Injustice, divisiveness, violence, fear, hatred, and incivility are hallmarks of our current sociopolitical reality, put on steroids with the 24/7 news and opinions cycle.



Sigh. Breathe. Breathe Again. Breathe again, and deeper.

Do not forget your power in the days of your powerlessness. Remember the depth of your own compassion.

~Rev. Mark Bellitini, adapted

We come back to a place where hope persists and where doing the work is on par with living a life of faith. Providing witness for justice with compassion is transformative. Being a part of a community is transformative.

Taking time to match your values and principles with your time and resources is transformative.

Taking time to read up, show up, and stand out for your faith is transformative.

This is our power – to make a difference one thought at a time, one act at a time, one prayer at a time, one day at a time.

The spiritual theme of the month for November is STRUGGLE. A counterbalance to the weight of a spiritual struggle is the practice of gratitude. Here is one thing I am super grateful for: Little Free Libraries, which provide books as a free will offering and exchange to anyone. I am grateful to Pat Zimmerman who designed our very own UUCR Little Free Libraries. I am grateful to Nancy Klag and Jon Landenburger who helped create and install them. I am grateful to all of the unknown beloveds who have filled the LFL's and continue the literary service to our UUCR community and beyond. I am grateful to all of the educators, parents, and caregivers who instill and nurture a love of learning in children and youth. I am grateful to all the people who put their dreams, thoughts, and creativity into print.

I am grateful for a community that values service as a way to live our faith and love.

I am grateful for you.

With heart,

Rev. Rebekah

thank
you!

FAITH FORMATION

Reflections...

by Carla Miller, Director of Religious Education

JOURNALING EXERCISE: FOR MAKING MORE HOLIDAY MAGIC—AND LESS HOLIDAY STRESS

The winter holidays have become stressful for most of us – expensive and tiring, with too many activities and an endless to-do list. Where is the joy? What happened to the magic?

Holidays can still be spiritually satisfying. Perhaps taking time now, in advance of the craziness, will help us to make healthy and happy holiday choices to keep that magic alive. Pick up a journal and a pen, and write your thoughts as you consider these questions about your holiday activities.



Your own spiritual sustenance: Consider what nurtures your spirit every day, as well as during the holidays. When and where do you feel most spiritually alive? Alone; in worship community; meditating or praying; reading; listening to special music; engaged in crafts, cooking, or other creative activities; or just being relaxed and unhurried? Which of your favorite spiritual practices are already an integral part of your holiday traditions? How might you better incorporate your spiritual needs into the holiday plans this year?

Family favorites: If you have children or grandchildren, consider where their holiday magic might be for and with them. I suggest that you write a list with each child's name. Now, rather than writing a list of the gifts that you will give them, write down the activities that each child enjoys most during the holidays. Is this child a tree-decorator, a cookie-baker, the one who loves the light show, or the one who especially enjoys running through the house with cousins? Ask them what they love most about holidays. You may be surprised! Intentionally engage each child in their own special favorite holiday activities. If nobody in the family has mentioned an activity – Christmas cards, for example – is it really needed? Could it be de-emphasized or dropped altogether?

Engagement: In which activities are you most engaged rather than going through the motions with a sense of obligation? In which activities are the children most actively involved? These will be worth emphasizing! Are there other activities in which they could be more involved?

The meaning and values of the holiday season: Which of your traditions emphasize the meaning of the holidays and help your children understand the meaning and values of their holiday traditions? What are those values for you? What are the most important values of the holidays for you? Some possibilities: Holidays are a time to spend enjoyable time with immediate family, to reunite with relatives and/or to gather with friends. Holidays are a time to celebrate the birth of Christ, the eight days of light in the temple, the winter solstice, or the traditions of Kwanzaa through special rituals in the congregation and at home. Holidays are a time to create a festive, beautiful home environment. Holidays are a time to show love and generosity through gifts. Holidays are a time to remember the poor and contribute to the community. Holidays are a time to be active in the church community. Holidays are a time to relax and be renewed.

Which of these speak to you? Which do you do well? Which do you wish to do more this year? After all of this, write a reflection on the overall experience of the holidays and what you hope to do more of, and less of, this holiday season.

May we take time now, in November, to envision a holiday season that opens us to joyful moments and the warm glow of holiday magic!

Carla

FAITH FORMATION

Small Group Ministry

by Rev. Rebekah Savage

Small Group Ministry is transforming and expanding! We are looking to relaunch in January with a new name - and new offerings!

Relaunch with the program options of:

- Chalice Circles
- Covenant Groups
- Chalice Parallelograms (thanks to Julie Graf <wink>)
- Other suggestions...?

Members of our Facebook group may vote [on the naming poll there](#). You may also email Rev. Rebekah at rev.rebekah@uucr.org.

If you'd like to try a Small Group just for one or two sessions, please email Rev. Rebekah.

We're also planning on offering Affinity Groups, based on interest. A small group just for:

- people of color
- parents of adopted children
- parents/primary care givers (all)
- single parents
- women, female identified
- single women (female identified)
- LGBTQ+
- ... others???

Small Group Ministry creates a sacred time where the stories of our lives are heard. ~Thandeka

Opportunities for Children & Youth this Holiday Season

by Carla Miller, DRE

The holiday season will soon be here with all of its joyful traditions!

- December 2—Getting Ready for the Holidays! It's time to get into the holiday spirit with crafts, cookies, cocoa, and decorating our Mitten Tree! Bring warm hats, mittens, and gloves to decorate the tree. These will be donated to those in need of warmth through a local shelter.
- December 16—Christmas Pageant Sunday: Calling all kids! Let's get into costume! This year's pageant participants will tell and dramatize the traditional story of Christmas, and sing your favorite carols. Children and youth of all ages are invited to participate. The story will be primarily told by narrators, with a few lines each for Joseph, Mary, a lead shepherd, an innkeeper, and one of the magi. There will be an opportunity to sign up in advance if you would like to narrate or have one of the speaking parts. Rehearsals will be held during regular Sunday morning class times on December 9, during both services, and on Saturday, December 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Narrators and those with spoken lines should plan to attend both rehearsals.

Teacher Tea & Training

by Carla Miller, DRE

All Religious Education teachers are invited to an RE check-in and training session on LGBTQ inclusivity and using non-binary language in the classroom. Lucy Grinnell and Michael Mignano will be leading this important presentation to help us to better serve all of our children in religious education classes. Join us in Building 2, Room 24/25, on Sunday, November 18 during Middle Hour.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Giant Gift Cards

by Judy Eisenhauer

Attention Giant shoppers! Here's an easy way to contribute to UUCR without spending anything but a few minutes of your time. Cards are available in \$100 and \$20 denominations and you may pay by check, cash, or EFT authorization. You pay face value and UUCR receives 5% of all sales. On November 4, 11, and 18, you can purchase the \$20 cards to be donated with Thanksgiving meal baskets to Community Ministries of Rockville (see below). Giant gift cards are normally sold in Fellowship Hall during Middle Hour on the first and third Sundays of each month.



Thanksgiving Baskets

by Betsy Wilder



Food Drive

UUCR is partnering with Community Ministries of Rockville to provide vulnerable families with Thanksgiving meal baskets. Stop by the Social Justice tables in Fellowship Hall for items to be donated (based on the first letter of your last name), and bring your items by November 18! A donation box will be available outside of Fellowship Hall. Consider purchasing a Giant gift card with your baskets so that each recipient can purchase turkey and other fresh food.

Scholarship for UU Youth: Travel to Middle East

by the Peace Studies Group:

Steve Lapham, José Clemente, Leigh Partington, Alonzo Smith, Karla Timmons, and Deb Delavan

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East offers travel scholarships to UU young adults aged 18-35 for trips to the Middle East in 2019 to enable them to take part in activities that will help further UUJME's mission and the cause of justice, peace, and human rights in Israel-Palestine. Scholarship applicants may request up to \$3,000 in assistance to help cover trip costs. Examples of delegations that you may travel with: Rebuilding Camp of the Israeli Campaign Against Housing Demolitions, Interfaith Peace Builders Olive Harvest, International Solidarity Movement, Churches for Middle East Peace, Sabeel's Witness Trips, Mossawa Center Young Adult Volunteer Program, Eyewitness Palestine, Mejdī Tours, and many more. UUJME does not necessarily endorse any particular travel or tour service, so applicants and their parents should thoroughly research them. To Learn more, visit uujme.org/young-adult-travel and read the "Young Adult Travel Blogs" at uujme.org/blogs.

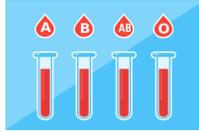


CONGREGATION WORKS

UUCR Blood Drive

by Rev. Rebekah Savage

Calling all with the gift of life in their bodies who are able to give! UUCR is partnering with INOVA, thanks to our youth leader Daniela Brigatti, to offer a Blood Drive on Sunday, November 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sign-ups are available online; or just drop by Fellowship Hall on the day of to donate. The Blood Drive is open to everyone—and the wider community! Give the Gift of Life!



UUCR Thanksgiving

by Rev. Rebekah Savage

Come join us for the UUCR Tradition of Thanksgiving! Cynthia and Ginny Shires-Thurston have graciously offered to host this year's gathering. Sign ups are available at the Lay Ministry Counsel table during Middle Hour or [online via SignUpGenius](#).



Vegetarian Friendly! Thursday, November 22. In addition to your contributions of food and beverage, the cost will be \$3 person and \$7 for families of 3 or more to buy turkey and extras.

Your contributions are payable at the event, at the Thanksgiving Table in Fellowship Hall during Middle Hour or by PayPal

UUCR Gifts Survey

by UUCR Lay Ministry Council

How are you being fed at UUCR? We offer so many opportunities to do so and we want to know. We also need your gifts and skills to share with our growing UUCR family. The Lay Ministry Council warmly invites you to complete a brief survey so we can ensure that we are meeting your needs, and to match your interests and talents with the service of our committees and teams that make all of the robust programs of UUCR possible. Stop by the LMC table during Middle Hour for a paper copy, or [submit your survey online](#).

Thank you to the almost 50 people of our UUCR family who have already submitted their surveys!

From the Archives

by Maude McGovern

Alphonzo Lee: Founding Member, Civil Rights Leader—Part II



Alphonzo Lee

courtesy of Peerless Rockville

When Alphonzo Lee, age 73, signed the membership book in September 1956, he was a leader in the local struggle for civil rights. A member of the NAACP since 1910, he had helped found the Montgomery Chapter in 1937 and went on to serve as president for multiple terms.

Valuing education highly, Lee worked for equal opportunities for students and teachers. For decades he fought against the segregation of local institutions and facilities including restaurants, theaters, public restrooms, housing, and hospitals. Contrasting the freedom his forebears had in Africa with the conditions of black people in America he would demand, “Why are they so slow in giving our freedom back to us?” He welcomed to the ranks of local activists white newcomers to the area (no doubt including some Unitarians) who were appalled by Montgomery County’s overt segregation. Not surprisingly, this lifelong activist was a member of the church’s Social Action Committee.

On a lighter note, on a survey around 1960 Lee described himself as “well pleased with the Church, the service (and brevity thereof), and the people; pleased that Unitarians are not afraid to discuss social conditions frankly...” He listed whist, social dancing, and discussions of religion and world events among his interests.

Lee remained a member until a few years before his death at age 90 in 1974.

See [last month’s Quest](#) for information about Alphonzo Lee’s early life.

THINKING OF YOU & WINTER CELEBRATIONS

Thinking of You

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

Ted Reuther died peacefully at home after a very long journey with Alzheimer's disease. Pat was supported by the presence of both of her sons. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, November 16 at 2:00 p.m. at UUCR.



Libby Sullivan's dad, **Charles Watson**, passed away peacefully on October 28 after spending the day with his four daughters and wife telling silly stories and reminiscing.

Jewell Golden has a new address. UUCR congregants may contact Dir. of Communications & Membership Adrian Graham at agraham@uucr.org for details.

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

UUCR HOLIDAY CALENDAR

additional details will be available in UUCR E-Weekly and in Sunday Morning Orders of Service

Sunday, November 18, 9 & 11:15 a.m.—Sanctuary
Multigenerational Thanksgiving Services & Meal Baskets for CMR

Sunday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary, Grounds
Winter Solstice Ritual with UUCR Wheel of the Year Group

Thursday, November 22, 2:00 p.m.—Founders Hall
UUCR Thanksgiving Gathering

Sunday, December 23, 10:00 a.m.—Founders Hall
Winter Blessings Service with Rev. Rebekah Savage

Sunday, November 25, 9 & 11:15 a.m.—Founders Hall, Fellowship Hall
Worship Services & UUCR Blood Drive

Monday, December 24, 4:30 p.m.—Sanctuary
Family-friendly Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 2, 9 & 11:15 a.m.—Sanctuary
Mitten Tree Sunday & Getting Ready for the Holidays (details TBD)

Monday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.—Fellowship Hall
Family-friendly Christmas Eve Service Reception

Friday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.—Founders Hall
Holiday Open House sponsored by the Pastoral Care Team & Staff

Monday, December 24, 8:30 p.m.—Sanctuary
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Adult Choir

Sunday, December 9, 9 & 11:15 a.m.—Sanctuary
Vivaldi's *Magnificat* with UUCRockville and UUCFairfax joined choirs

Monday, December 24, 9:30 p.m.—Fellowship Hall
Christmas Eve Service Reception

Sunday, December 16, 9:00 a.m.—Founders Hall
Stories of Christmas Past

Sunday, December 30, 9:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall
Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, December 16, 11:15 a.m.—Sanctuary
Intergenerational Holiday Pageant

Sunday, December 30, 10:00 a.m.—Founders Hall
"Poetry, PJ's, and Pancakes" Sunday

Poinsettia Sale 2018

by Carolyn Randall



Every year, members and friends of UUCR order poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for the holidays, then take them home after the Christmas Eve services. This year the poinsettias will be in place for Mitten Tree Sunday, December 2. We will be taking your orders (with payment, please) after the service on Sundays, November 11, 18, and 25. I will be staffing a table in Fellowship Hall on those days and you will find order forms in the Order of Service as well. The price will be \$11 per plant. Checks (made out to UUCR) or cash accepted, no credit cards. The final deadline to place an order is Monday, November 26.

As usual, you may dedicate your plant(s) as an honor or memorial. Your name and the name(s) you designate will be included in the Order of Service during the holidays. For more information, please contact **Carolyn Randall**.

Quest

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville
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November 7, 2018

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.

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