
WORSHIP SERVICES

January Theme: INTEGRITY

Sun., Jan 12, 9 & 11:15 a.m.
Moments of High Resolve

Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles is preaching, and reflecting on the many ways we are invited by our lives and these times to discover what “integrity” means.

Special music by guest artists **Tom Neilson**, guitar & vocals, and **Lynn Waldron**, vocals. **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 K through 5th grade follow their teachers to their classrooms. Parents of K through 3rd grade are asked to sign their children out from classes ten minutes after 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—4-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

Sun., Jan 19, 9 & 11:15 a.m.
How Shall Integrity Face Oppression?

At General Assembly, Dr. Cornell West challenged us to consider this question. As we celebrate and honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we wrestle with what endures of our integrity in this age of mendacity about our past and our present.

(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 LXIII, Number 5
January 8, 2020

Editor & Publisher:
Adrian L. H. Graham



In the Interim...

by the Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles

Happy New Year! 2020 promises to be an eventful year! For better or for worse, we know things will be happening. And at UUCR I feel a powerful sense of possibilities opening up; something's coming your way, which will set you on a wonderful path into your future.

In this month of January:

- ◆ The Board, Lay Ministry Council, and congregation will have a chance to have conversations about the possibilities for our **Sunday morning schedule**, based on the report that is being delivered in the new year from our awesome Sunday Schedule Review Team. Many thanks to Andrea Hall, Bruce Baskett, Dave Marks, Michael Mignano, Emily Untermeyer, and others for their excellent work on assembling, reviewing, and summarizing 70 pages of raw data collected from attendance records, 20 facilitated conversation circles, the survey, and other collected comments from the congregation!
- ◆ You, the congregation, will help us identify members of the **Ministerial Selection Committee** (see note on page 2), and the journey will begin to discern who shall be invited to be UUCR's next Senior Minister.
- ◆ The **Congregational Administrator Search Team** is well on their way, reviewing resumes and conducting interviews, to select the next person to fill this very important position on UUCR's staff as Donna Taylor prepares to retire at the end of March. Thanks to Karen Pittleman, Dan Pierce, Ellen Rohan, Cynthia Shires-Thurston, and Martha Taylor for their diligent work.

As the New Year opens up to you, it is my deep hope that you can feel support and strength from one another, to face each new twist and turn on your journey with resolve and integrity, to be as fully present as possible to this gift of life and time which is yours each day!

Quest deadline: Thursday, **January 23, 2020** at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on **February 5, 2020**.
Email to quest@uucr.org

Quest

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Director of Music: Sarah Jebian

Director of Communications & Membership:

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Church Administrator: Donna Taylor

RE & Youth Assistant: Aiden Chernikoff

Pianist: Justin Furnia

Building Sexton: Justin Onyeador

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(Worship Services continued from page 1)

We will also pour libations to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the death of Gregory Peck, a black man who died at the hands of a white mob injustice in Poolesville, MD. Alonzo Smith will present during Middle Hour about the current lynching commemoration work of the Montgomery County Council and Equal Justice Initiative, and the idea of truth and reconciliation. Led by **Rev. Rebekah Savage**.

The **UUCR Choir** will sing; **Justin Furnia**, piano.

First Fifteen—see above.

Sunday, January 26, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

The New American Transcendentalism

Join **Rev. John T. Crestwell, Jr.** guest minister from the UU Church of Annapolis, as he contrasts the primary (fundamentalist) and secondary (mystic) stories undergirding religion and American culture. He will explore how Transcendentalism in the 19th Century is re-emerging in the 21st century, and what that means for the future of Unitarian Universalist congregations.

Special music by **Khalid Alzouma**, piano.

First Fifteen—see above.

February Theme: RESILIENCE

Sunday, February 2, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Sabbath: To Rest in Grace

Rev. Linda proposes something radical to become more resilient in this life—try to take a month-long sabbatical from your to-do lists. Cancel unnecessary meetings and replace them with time talking with friends, going for walks, painting a picture, or reading poetry. Wendell Berry wrote: “When despair for the world grows in me...I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds...I rest in the grace of the world and am free.”

Special music by **Justin Furnia**, piano.

Special Programming—Children in K through 5th Grade will be excused to Founders' Hall after the First Fifteen for specially planned activities. Nursery care for infants—4-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

Finding a New Senior Minister for UUCR

by Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles, Interim Senior Minister

We are asking you – the members and friends of this congregation – to help identify people who should be members of a **Minister Selection Committee**. Whom do you admire and whom do you trust to make a choice you would endorse? This month, the journey will begin to discern who shall be invited to be UUCR’s next Senior Minister. The journey may be a short one, with a choice as early as the end of this church year. Or it might be a longer journey, stretching more than a year. You will receive a direct email invitation to give us names of people you would trust to serve you on the selection committee. Or you can [click on this link](#) and fill out the form. **The deadline is January 15!**

Questions? Contact Board Vice President [Elsa Powel Strong](#).

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Spotlight On...

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

in·teg·ri·ty

1. **The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness. “He is known to be a man of integrity.”**
2. **The state of being whole and undivided. “...upholding territorial integrity and national sovereignty.”**

I don't know about you but I am exhausted to my core by the lack of integrity I see in so many of our national leaders. Carla Miller recently shared an article with the staff entitled “[Democracy Grief](#)”. It's worth the read. In the article, the author describes feeling a sense of grief at, what feels to many of us, like a descent into authoritarianism. I'm scared that the world we are leaving for our children is going to be a very harsh one, if the climate crisis doesn't end the world as we know it. What's more, my children are feeling this grief too; but for them, it's manifesting as rage. They are So. Angry. All the time.

My oldest daughter and I spent some time today talking about all of this. I wish I had something more hopeful to tell her but the best I could do was encourage her not to give in to despair. Not to give up. I told her that every day is a struggle for me, too; but every day—every single day—I try to look for something good. And if I can't find it, I become it. I try to spread love and kindness wherever I go. I make a point of smiling at people I meet, saying hello, making a joke just to hear them laugh. And I sing. I sing whenever and wherever I can. I sing for myself but I also sing for my kids and for you. I sing my heartbreak. I sing my anger. I sing to try to strengthen the tiny glimmer of hope that still, by some miracle, shines deep in my heart.

There is a poem by Gil Scott Heron called “[The Revolution Will Not Be Televised](#)”. It is fitting that this poem was set to music because I believe that the revolution will be sung. What the leaders of HALO taught us during the recent *ArtsConnect* program is that every voice has a function and a place in the grand choir. When we find the points of musical tension and release, we find the moments of magic.

My partner Laura Weiss and I would like to offer you the gift of music. On **Saturday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**, we'll be playing some hymns off our recent album *Not Your Mama's Hymns* and adding some original tunes and covers of songs that will hopefully give you strength for the road ahead. Anyone who works in trauma recovery will tell you that you have to take breaks and fill your bucket so that you can continue to help others. Put your own oxygen mask on first! Rest, be comforted, be inspired, and then do what you can to show the world what integrity means to you.

Keep singing friends. I love you.

Sarah



SHARING THE MINISTRY

Thinking of You

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

Peggy Jones died December 9. She was predeceased by her husband Hunter, who died March 22, 2019. Peggy and Hunter were the last of the founding members of our congregation who were still members at the time of their deaths. She is survived by their three children Evan, Lee, and Charlotte, and many grandchildren. Peggy was an active member until very recent years, outspoken and loving. (See note below from son Lee.)



Polly Campbell turned 100 years old on December 9! A birthday celebration was held on December 7 at UUCR. Unfortunately, Polly was unable to attend, but the congregation wrote birthday greetings and enjoy a very large cake.

Barbara Wilson of Hampton, VA, mother of Susan Wilson and mother-in-law of Mary Hoferek, passed away December 7 after a short illness. In her 86 years, she was a master gardener, tree steward, failed collie and sheltie foster mom (the dogs never left), belly dancer, switchboard operator, trainer for Sears, and wife and mother.

Celia Young was recently implanted with a special pacemaker. She says it is the “Mercedes” of pacemakers and she can’t even tell it’s there.

Adrian Graham is mourning the loss of his cousin, **Celwyn A. Peebles**, who died on December 9.

A memorial service for **John McIlwaine**, who died on November 27, will take place on Saturday, February 8 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Rev. Rebekah Savage will officiate, and all are invited to attend.

Please [contact Judy Eisenhower](#) with any joys, concerns, or accomplishments you would like to share in this column.

Gathering to Remember Peggy Jones

An invitation from Lee Jones

As most of you know, our mom, Peggy Jones, passed away on Monday, December 9. She requested that we not have a formal memorial service; but we know that many people would like to gather and share stories.

We’ve reserved the Parker Room in the Trott Building at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg on **Saturday, February 1 at 11:00 a.m.** If you’d like to come out and share a story about Peggy, or just say hi, we’d love to see you. We’ll tell stories for 30-45 minutes and then there will be a simple buffet lunch provided.

If you think you’re going to be there, please let me know, just so we have enough food on the table. Even if you don’t tell us you’re coming, you’ll be heartily welcome if you just fetch up.

Here’s a link to Google Maps to get you there: [405 Russell Ave, Gaithersburg MD 20877](#)

To get onto the campus, you’ll need to go to the gatehouse at the corner of Lost Knife and Odendhal, which you can get to [via this link](#). They can give you directions to the specific building from there.

Also, feel free to [contact me](#) with any questions: (828) 707-7562.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Share the Plate

by Sean McCarthy, Social Justice Committee



The designated partner for Share the Plate for January and February 2020 is the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Half of the collection at services on Sunday during these months will be given to this organization to further its work.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for ages 10 to 35 in Maryland. Each suicide affects at least 100 people in our community. However, suicide is a preventable cause of death. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is working to help reduce the rate of suicides nationwide.

The [Maryland Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#) holds a Montgomery County “Out of the Darkness Walk” one Sunday each September. We anticipate our congregation's contributions to Share the Plate will enable UUCR to be a named sponsor of the September, 2020 walk. In recognition of our sponsorship, we can display the UUCR logo on the Maryland Chapter's Facebook page and monthly E-Newsletter as well as the walk T-shirt. UUCR will also have its own tent and banner at the walk. Most importantly, UUCR's contribution will be used to help the Foundation's work towards reducing the national suicide rate by 20% by 2025.

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

by Jack Taylor, Social Justice Committee

The [Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland](#) (UULM-MD) is a statewide advocacy network of Unitarian Universalists, working to educate, mobilize, and coordinate UUs on specific issues before the Maryland General Assembly. It works in coalition with established state and national organizations, such as the ACLU, Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform, and the Maryland Climate Coalition. Jack Taylor (of the Social Justice Committee) is a member of the UULM-MD Board.

The 2020 annual UULM MD legislative kickoff will be held Saturday, January 11, 2020, at the UU Church of Annapolis. Attendees will listen to speakers discussing the issues going into the 2020 Maryland legislative session and participate in issue-based breakout groups. The keynote speaker will be Maryland Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnik, who was instrumental in getting the state Prescription Drug Board passed.

The registration site is at <https://uulmmd.salsalabs.org/legislativekickoff1-11-2020/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=76984941-3da3-4161-ad75-dddf5a28562a>

UULM-MD will be setting up Task Forces on Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Economic Justice, Immigration, Healthcare, and Gun Violence. For more information (or if a ride is needed), please [contact Jack Taylor](#).



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Unitarian Universalist Principles

As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

In addition to these Seven Principles, the members of UUCR voted to support the UUA in moving toward incorporating a proposed Eighth Principle that may be as stated below:

- Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Our Mission and Vision

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

Our Values

Lifelong Spiritual Discovery ~ Beloved Community ~ A Just World