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## WORSHIP SERVICES

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**Feb. Theme: CELEBRATING  
THE GENERATIONS**

**Sun., Feb 11, 9 & 11:15 a.m.**  
*Witnessing: Past and Present*

In this era of #MeToo and centering voices of marginalized people, **Rev. Rebekah Savage** will reflect on how witnessing truth is a spiritual gift to ourselves, to our relationships, and to our community. As we honor the past, we bring justice forward. We ask, “where is your truth?”

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

**First Fifteen**—Three to four Sundays a month, children spend the “First Fifteen” minutes in the Sanctuary for the multigenerational portion of the worship service, after which those in pre-K through 5th grade follow their teachers to their classrooms. Parents of pre-K through 2nd grade are asked to collect their children from classrooms at the end of worship; children in 3rd through 5th grade will be dismissed at the end of class. Loving care is provided to the youngest members of our community (infant—3 years) in Building 3, Room 33.

Join the **Middle Hour** choices from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., including Emerson’s Café, Spirit of Life Sangha, Middle & High School Faith Formation, Adult Faith Formation, an intergenerational Mindfulness Class, and more!

*(continued on page 2)*

February 7, 2018

# 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 5-6  
February 7, 2018

Editor & Publisher:  
Adrian L. H. Graham

## *DeLynnecations*

*by Rev. Lynn T. Strauss*



*Waking up this morning, I smile.  
Twenty-four brand new hours are before me.  
I love to live fully in each moment  
And to look at all beings with eyes of compassion.  
—Thich Nhat Hanh*

I often miss having babies, children, teenagers in the house—especially in the mornings. On the days I FaceTime with my two-year-old grandsons, I am drawn again into early morning laughter and smiles. What a blessing!

Sunday mornings offer similar opportunities to be awakened by children, teens, and babies. What a time for joyful smiling is Sunday morning!

Perhaps that is one profound purpose of religious community—a time to laugh and smile; a reminder of joy to take into the week ahead.

*(continued on page 6)*

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

# Quest

Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Rockville  
100 Welsh Park Drive  
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301-762-7666  
UUCR@UUCR.ORG  
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## Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Lynn Thomas Strauss  
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Interim Director of Music: Sarah Jebian  
Director of Communications & Membership:  
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Church Administrator: Donna Taylor  
Religious Education Assistant: Rena Geibel  
Pianist: Justin Furnia  
Building Sexton: Justin Onyeador

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(Worship Services continued from page 1)

**Sunday, February 18, 9 & 11:15 a.m.**

*Time's Up*

When truth is witnessed, many often respond with doubt and hostility. No one believed Noah before God sent the flood. The words of the prophets often fell on closed ears. Sometimes, society has to hear the truth again in a new generation to bring about changes in consciousness. How will we listen and give to our shared future? Led by **Rev. Savage**.

**Greg Yoder** will sing; **Justin Furnia** on piano.

**Chalice Chapel**—One Sunday each month, all children and youth gather in Founders Hall for worship where they will sing, share, and create together. Loving care is provided to the youngest members of our community (infant—3 years) in Building 3, Room 33.

Join the **Middle Hour** choices from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Sunday, February 25, 9 & 11:15 a.m.**

*23andMe: Exploring the Family Tree*

How does the science of genetic testing affect our knowledge of ourselves and our families? Knowing that science and technology can have varied and unforeseen consequences, how much do we want to know? Can we ensure that new science and technological breakthroughs expand our horizons of thought and experience for the good of society and the future? Led by **Rev. Lynn Strauss**.

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

**First Fifteen**—see above.

Join the **Middle Hour** choices from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. season.

**March Theme: STEWARDSHIP**

**Sunday, March 5, 9 & 11:15 a.m.—CANVASS SUNDAY**

*The Legacy of Walden Pond*

The year 2017 was the bicentennial of the birth of Henry David Thoreau. In his experiment at Walden Pond and in his writings on “Walking” and his extensive journals, Thoreau taught his fellow Transcendentalists and his current Unitarian Universalist heirs much about the connection between stewardship and spirituality. As we celebrate our canvass, let us celebrate Thoreau’s contribution to our movement. **Rev. Strauss & Rev. Savage** will lead this service together.

The **UUCR Choir** will sing; **Justin Furnia** on piano. **First Fifteen**.

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## FAITH FORMATION

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### **Our Whole Lives (“OWL”) 4-6**

*by Rena Geibel*

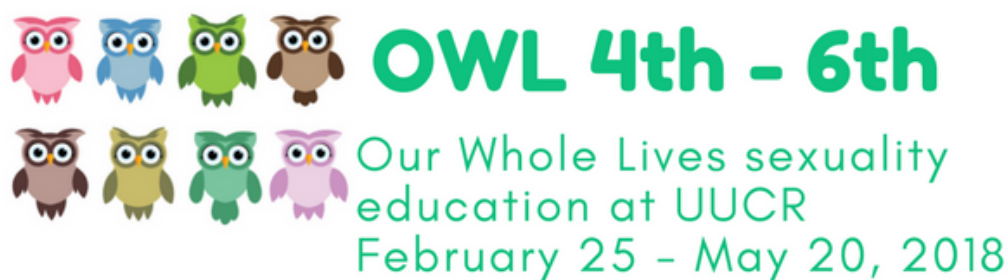
We are excited to invite you to Our Whole Lives sexuality education for 4th—6th graders. OWL is guided by the principles that 1) parents have primary responsibility for sexuality education with their children, and 2) sexuality education begins at home and continues through open and honest communication between parents and children.

UUCR has offered OWL for 7th—9th graders and for 10th—12th graders in the past. We expanded in 2017-18 to offer the K—1st grade program in the fall and the 4th—6th grade program this winter/spring.

Due to the wide differences in age, experience, and maturity among children in grades 4, 5, and 6, the course is best suited for the “late blooming” or for a “young 6th grader”. Children in 6th grade will be admitted at the discretion of the Director of Religious Education, with parental input.

If you wish to enroll in OWL 4-6, **both you and your child must attend a mandatory potluck orientation on Sunday, February 25, from 12:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Founders Hall.** In this way, parents and children begin the program together! Children and parents will be together for a portion of the orientation and also have separate work time.

In order for us to properly prepare, please express your interest in OWL by completing this short form by **February 15, 2018**: <http://tinyurl.com/UUCROWL4-6EoI>.



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### **UUCR Library**

*by Adult Faith Formation Committee*

Our UUCR Library is expanding! The bookshelf in Fellowship Hall currently is home to items that may have been left behind. All items will be placed in the Lost and Found by the kitchen pantry. Thank you!

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## CONGREGATION WORKS

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FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES

# MIDDLE HOUR

10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### EVERY SUNDAY



Emerson's Café - Bldg 2  
Spirit of Life Sangha - Bldg 2  
Intergenerational Class - Founders Hall  
Junior High RE - Rm 51  
Senior High RE - Rm 50

### ROTATING

1st SUNDAY  
Sonaria - Rm 44

2nd SUNDAY  
AFF: Ted Talks - Rm 44  
Newcomer Chat - Room 23

3rd SUNDAY  
Sonaria - Rm 44  
New Member SGM - Rm 22

4th SUNDAY  
How2UUCR - Rm 22  
AFF: World Religions - Rm 44

[WWW.UUCR.ORG](http://WWW.UUCR.ORG)

[UUCR@UUCR.ORG](mailto:UUCR@UUCR.ORG)

## CONGREGATION WORKS



Sundays  
at  
9:00 AM  
&  
11:15 AM

*Love, Justice,  
and YOU!*

Come, come, whoever you are...

[uucr.org](http://uucr.org)



### *Our Transition to Two Sunday Services*

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

There are many quantitative and qualitative methods we might use to monitor how we're doing with our new two-service Sundays that began on January 7. Fundamental to all methods, however, is tracking the number of people (adults, children, and youth) that our programs serve each Sunday.

We've always counted adults and children in worship and in religious education classrooms—and we continue that practice, recording attendance for first service and second service in the Sanctuary and in RE (thank you ushers and teachers!). We are now also counting and recording attendance for each 'Middle Hour' program and paying closer attention to the number of visitors we have each week.

As we proceed through the spring, we will be able to share trends with you about how many are participating each Sunday, and where we see growth occurring throughout our congregation.

Our efforts are bearing fruit so far: we have observed good participation among our current congregants, particularly in the Middle Hour, and an increase in engagement of newcomers. May we continue this good work!

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## CONGREGATION WORKS

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### Our Partner Church in Transylvania

by Louise Friedenberg

UUCR has had a partnership with the Unitarian Church in Magyarzsákod, Transylvania, Romania, since 1992. We made a commitment to provide an annual stipend of \$500 to the minister of the church—which we have done for 25 years, increasing it to \$600 just last year. In addition to this support of the minister in our operating budget, we have held many special fundraisers to support a variety of projects, such as:

- church maintenance
- school supplies
- scholarships for high schoolers
- fencing
- Internet connection, and more...



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL

Our partner church in Magyarzsákod was originally built in the 1500s. Unitarianism traces its roots back to 16th century Transylvania, even surviving many years of communism. The fall of communism in 1989 changed everything, and communications channels opened.

Although their religious beliefs and church services are more traditional than ours, we share in some basic values and principles—namely the use of reason in matters of faith, the belief in absolute freedom of conscience, and tolerance of differing opinions. Our partnership supports the 6th Principle of the UUA—the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

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## SHARING THE MINISTRY

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*(DeLynneations continued from page 1)*

Here within Beloved Community, we are also reminded of the season of sorrow and given the opportunity to practice compassion. UUCR comes alive when we meet the needs of our siblings within the congregation. This, too, is a profound purpose of our being together. The outpouring of loving care reflects the depth of our commitment to one another, and gives meaning to the Covenant we speak: “Love is the Spirit of this congregation, and service is its law.” Be assured of the deep well of compassion that is UUCR.

May you awake each morning held by the sustaining care of this community of faith, remembering the joy and the sorrow...and smiling as you begin each day.

With Gratitude and Blessing,

*Reverend Lynn*

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## SHARING THE MINISTRY

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### Thinking of You

*compiled by Judy Eisenhauer on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team*

**Glenn Griffin** broke his leg in January and expects to be home from rehabilitation by the time this issue of *Quest* is received. He is continuing therapy to strengthen his leg and hopes to be back to UUCR activities soon.

**Charlie Eisenhauer** was briefly in Shady Grove Hospital and is now in Wilson Center at Asbury for rehabilitation. Charlie enjoys visits and cards.

**Phil Benson** is in hospice care at home. Kelly asks for thoughts and prayers for Phil and for herself. UUCR's "Soup Brigade" is delivering homemade soups to Phil and Kelly; please contact Jane Klag if you are interested in participating.



**Carole Danielson** died January 29 surrounded by her sister Barb, her brother-in-law, and close friends. Rev. Lynn was there bringing love and blessing from UUCR. Carole had been struggling with multiple health issues. Carole's friends describe her as a lover of life, reader, hiker, dog-lover, foodie, and gardener. She was an active member of UUCR, involved in Women's Spirituality Group, Small Group Ministry, Lay Ministry Council, and book clubs. A memorial service to celebrate Carole's life is planned for the spring.

**Fred Beckner** died December 29 at age 88. Fred was a long-time member of UUCR. He—along with Dorothy Millon Ladd and George Leonard—traveled to Selma, AL, in 1965 to join in civil rights actions. More recently, he had recruited an "Expiration Committee" of UUCR members and friends to help him with plans and care in his old age. On January 5, friends and family, including his son Stephen and grandson Christian, gathered at UUCR to celebrate Fred's life. He is also survived by son Frederick.

**Suzanne Kullgren** died on January 2 at age 89. On January 12, her ashes were scattered in UUCR's Memorial Garden, followed by a memorial service attended by family and friends. She is survived by her daughter, Karen Kullgren, and son, Jeffrey Kullgren; grandchildren Samuel and Alyssa; and cousin, Annetta. Suzanne was active in UUCR's writing group and crafters group. Having interrupted her college education to raise a family, Suzanne proudly earned her Associate's Degree at Montgomery College at age 72. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Manna Food Bank, [www.mannafood.org](http://www.mannafood.org).

**Gertude Wetmore**, a member of our congregation for 23 years, died on January 16. She had not been able to attend services in recent years due to health issues. A memorial will be held at UUCR during the first week in March. More details to come.

We received news of the November 17, 2017, death of **Ruth Law**, an active member of UUCR for 22 years. Ruth was 94 years old at her death and had lived in Ellicott City for the past seven years. Funeral services were held on December 9 at Catonsville United Methodist Church.

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

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## SHARING THE MINISTRY

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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, February 10** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 50 for a screening of *KISS Loves You* (2004). The band KISS always appealed to a certain kind of outsider, and the band encouraged the devotion of these misfits through the assurance that “KISS love you!” During a low point in KISS’ career, an obsessive, nostalgic fan base developed a subculture of tribute bands and conventions to honor their fallen heroes. But some fans’ devotion would be rewarded with disappointment and rejection. What communities have we sought when we didn’t fit in elsewhere? And when does nostalgia and devotion become unhealthy? Ages 13+; popcorn and drinks provided.



#### SCHEDULE OF FILMS

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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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

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### Habitat for Humanity 2018

by Karen Pittleman

This summer will mark the tenth year that UUCR has traveled to Garrett County, MD, to spend a week building houses with Habitat for Humanity. This year’s dates are July 29—August 3. We welcome congregants aged 16 and over to join us for all or part of the week. We’ll work on houses in Hopeland Village, a community of homes built entirely by volunteers and designed to provide safe and affordable housing in Western Maryland.

No building experience is necessary. Our past projects have included:

- exterior siding installation
- interior painting and caulking
- hanging kitchen cabinets
- laying flooring
- and installing ceiling fans, lighting fixtures, and baseboard heating.



We get to know each other better as we work side-by-side, and get to know members of the local community who generously provide us dinner each night.

Please contact Karen Pittleman for further information and to sign up. The dates again—July 29–August 3.



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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

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### **Social Justice Committee Statement**

*submitted by Steve Lapham*

On December 5, 2017, UUCR's Social Justice Committee released a statement, *Affirming Our First Amendment Right to Boycott*. The text of this statement follows:

### **Affirming Our First Amendment Right to Boycott**

A Statement by the Social Justice Committee  
of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, Maryland  
December 5, 2017

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. As Americans, we are aware that the First Amendment squarely protects the right to boycott. Lately, a legislative assault on these values and rights has been spreading through the United States. For example, in Maryland:

- ◇ Gov. Larry Hogan signed an executive order in October 2017 that prohibits the state from doing business with companies engaged in a boycott of Israel.
- ◇ U.S. Senator Ben Cardin authored a bill (S 720) that would make it a felony for Americans to support the international boycott against Israel, which was launched in protest of that country's decades-old occupation of Palestine.

The bills and laws, in at least 20 states as well as the U.S. Senate, vary in numerous respects, but they share a common goal of scaring people away from participating in protests against Israeli government policies, including protests known as Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaigns. Regardless of what one thinks of the merits of this particular boycott, these attacks on our First Amendment right to boycott are unconstitutional and cannot be tolerated.

In a landmark 1982 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that an NAACP boycott of white-owned businesses in Mississippi (a boycott to protest segregation and racial injustice) was a protected form of free association and free expression. As the court recognized, political boycotts empower individuals to collectively express their dissatisfaction with the status quo and advocate for political, social, and economic change. These are precisely the freedoms the Constitution is meant to protect.

We call upon Senator Cardin and Governor Hogan to rescind their respective actions.



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## AROUND THE BELTWAY

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### HOW INTERFAITH WORK AND SERVICE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

#### Sustaining Hope

by Rev. Mansfield “Kasey” Kaseman, *Interfaith Community Liaison, Mont. County Office of Community Partnerships*

At the dawn of 2018, it may be hard to be optimistic. The destructive forces of prejudice, greed and hate threaten us on many sides. Fortunately, this holiday season has included seven faith traditions celebrating a force more powerful than optimism. **A power greater than ourselves is guiding our mission in Montgomery County and sustaining our hope.**

Our holidays remind us that genuine hope is found in the mighty acts of the Divine revealed through our faith traditions and within the natural world. It is also found as we come together acknowledging our disillusionment and gaining a sense of solidarity and power beyond ourselves.

Here are some of the ways that our faith and hope have been working in 2017:

- In response to the threaded ban on Muslims we joined our Muslim friends for Jummah prayer and demonstrated at all three international airports in our region.
- In response to threatened bombing of Jewish day schools over 70 faith leaders, ranging from Anglican to Zoroastrian, stood in solidarity with our Jewish sisters and brother at the Jewish Community Center.
- In response to elected officials refusing to welcome Syrian refugees we served as a catalyst for linking resettlement agencies and nonprofits working with 60 faith communities welcoming refugees to Montgomery County.
- In response to increased acts of hate in MCPS, we met with Superintendent Smith and his management team addressing bullying, hosting a Parent Academy and cosponsoring an Art Contest “United We Learn.”
- In response to violent threats on houses of worship, we convened security training sessions, and advocated for a supplemental Security Grant program through which 32 faith communities are investing \$300,000 to enhance their security.
- In response to anxiety and fear experienced within our immigrant and minority communities, we held a Unity Walk engaging some 300 people visiting seven diverse faith communities and hearing about their mission of peace.
- In response to divisive rhetoric and increased acts of hate and violence, we developed Interracial and Interfaith Dialogues on Racism: Seeing the Divine in Each Other that was later transitioned into Multicultural Dialogues on Bias.

I thank everyone participating in these and other programs that keep hope alive. As we move into a New Year, I remind you, in the words of Grace Paley, **“The only recognizable future of hope is action.”**

Om Shanti, Sat Sri Akal, Paz, Salaam, Shalom, Namaste, Peace.



Beloved UUCR Family: With the spiritual mission of our time to live boldly into our faith, UUCR will answer the call of love by supporting the Black Lives of UU commitment to fulfill our promise on March 18. To learn more about this important issue of justice, please read the special message from our UUA President, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, or talk to Rev. Lynn and Rev. Rebekah. With gratitude, Rev. Rebekah.

*The following message is available online in its entirety at:*

<https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/promise-and-practice/message-susan-frederick-gray>

## **SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM UUA PRESIDENT, REV. SUSAN FREDERICK-GRAY**

*Dear Unitarian Universalists,*

*In October 2016, your UUA Board issued a charge to all Unitarian Universalists, calling us to invest collectively and significantly in the leadership and organizing of Black Unitarian Universalists.*

*We have an extraordinary opportunity to live the most deeply universalist aspect of our theology and to begin to overcome the limitations of our history. Our commitment to raise and invest \$5.3 million for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) recognizes that centering black leadership is crucial to building multiracial, multicultural communities and to supporting justice work that is free from white supremacy and paternalism.*

*Our UUA believes so deeply in this commitment to support BLUU's ministry that it has put forth \$1 million from our endowment. In June, a family joined our UUA in its financial commitment, making a remarkable \$1 million gift to encourage and match contributions from our congregations. This family has been committed to racial justice throughout their decades as Unitarian Universalists, and is investing these funds because they agree that it is time to align our finances with our theological. They made this donation a matching opportunity because they want you to join with them and with us as we boldly build the future of our faith.*

*To be sure, these are challenging times. We are witnessing a demonstrable increase in hate crimes, a resurgence of the KKK, and daily political and spiritual assaults on our collective humanity. At the same time, we are opening our eyes to white supremacy as it exists in the very fabric of our story as a society and a nation. There is much that we must hold simultaneously. In this time, our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of all people and our collective interdependence call for us to live, invest in, and understand our faith in new ways.*

*We need to invest in a new generation of leadership. Specifically, we need to invest in Black Leadership and organizing within Unitarian Universalism, for this is the very leadership that can help move our faith forward in the promise and practice of beloved community—a community which practices radical inclusion within, and bold justice leadership for all beyond.*

*Today, I call each of you to be part of this bold commitment to fulfill the promise to support and center the voices of Black Lives within Unitarian Universalism.*

*I invite you to share in the dream and vision of what our faith will look like when we fulfill this radical commitment, when we uphold and center the history, the perspectives, the voices, and the leadership of Black Unitarian Universalists.*

*As a faith denomination, we are at the leading edge in addressing our own history of upholding white supremacy and working at dismantling it. We are mending a long-broken promise to the Black lives within our denomination. This fall, I invite you to explore how we are now practicing our promise. As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to examine our history, and to discover how we have benefited from the lives of Black people, and to share what we learn.*

*This rich, multi-layered exploration is one that is discussed in more detail at our website. I also invite you to learn about Black Lives of UU, the historical context of their organizing collective, and the powerful work they are doing within and beyond our faith. I am sure you will be inspired, as I have been, by their vision and vibrant ministry.*

*In order for our work to be truly transformational, I ask every Unitarian Universalist congregation to join in this real and lasting investment in the future of our faith. Indeed, this is the challenge issued by the family who has pledged so generously. In order to receive the matching funds, we must raise \$1 million in our congregations this year and next. This challenge calls us to our covenantal promise to one another, and it calls us to be bold as we return wealth that has been historically stolen and make good on promises that were unfulfilled.*

*To meet this challenge, the donor family has asked congregations to pledge at least \$10 per member to this campaign. All gifts are needed, and every gift is appreciated. If your congregation is able to reach the threshold of \$10 per member, BLUU will receive a dollar-for-dollar match for your contribution.*

*We know that you are engaged in the often-exhausting work of guiding your congregation through the troubling daily onslaught of news. Embracing this campaign and engaging in the practice and promise of our faith is one powerful way in which we as Unitarian Universalists can lead in our communities and become the change we want to see in our world. We hope that your congregation will join us and the donor family, and consider gifts that feel inspirational and transformational.*

*We are all being called to make a commitment that will create enduring impact. For, as a faith community, the investment in Black Lives is an investment in the promise and practice of Beloved Community within Unitarian Universalism. This is about who we are. It is about who we are called to be. And it is about our collective commitment to nurture a radically inclusive, justice centered, multiracial and multigenerational religious faith for this time.*

*Yours in gratitude and spirit,  
Susan Frederick-Gray*

February 7, 2018

Quest — 11

## *Quest*

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville  
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Rockville, MD 20850

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February 7, 2018

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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