

WORSHIP SERVICES

April Theme: JUSTICE

Sun., April 8, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

Divine Spark

Our worship theme of the month is Justice. Rev. Rebekah will explore how self-compassion—lovingkindness for one’s self—is a form of justice, as we each carry a divine spark within us. We can’t do the work in the world from a foundation that lacks self-acceptance and love. Led by **Rev. Rebekah Savage**.

Sonaria 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.

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

The Evolution of Justice For All

Rev. Lynn Strauss will consider the power of covenant and high aspiration in our nation and in our chosen faith.

(continued on page 2)

April 4, 2018

Quest

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

Lifelong Spiritual Discovery Beloved Community A Just World

Volume LXI, Number 8
April 4, 2018

Editor & Publisher:
Adrian L. H. Graham

DeLynneations

by Rev. Lynn T. Strauss

We Shall Rise: Excerpts from Rev. Strauss’s Easter Sermon



I love preaching on Easter Sunday. Not because I believe in the resurrection of the body, and not because Jesus holds a prominent place in my spiritual life. I love it because we get to ponder the life and death of a great prophet, and along with Passover, we are reminded that spiritual resurrection is always possible.

I preach in order to bring the wisdom of sacred myth and universal archetypes into conversation with present day sufferings and resurrections.

This year, hope lifted me in the presence and words of nine-year-old Yolanda Renee King, the granddaughter of Martin Luther King, Jr., who spoke at the ‘March For Our Lives’. Fifty years from the week when Dr. King was murdered in Memphis, his granddaughter spoke of her “dream”. “Enough is enough,” young Ms. King said to the huge crowd. “This should be a gun-free world,” she said.

Finding hopeful words is not always easy; yet Easter and Passover call for images of hope – so I leave you with one word that touched my soul this past week. It was written on the cardboard sign of a homeless person begging on the side of the road in our county. The word was “Mercy”. All he needed, all he asked for, was “Mercy”. In these days of too much suffering, let us rise and offer mercy to all in need. Just Mercy. Let that be our prayer.

Reverend Lynn

Quest deadline: Thursday, **April 26, 2018** at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on **May 2, 2018**.
Email to quest@uucr.org

Quest

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Religious Education Coordinator: Rena Geibel
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(Worship Services continued from page 1)

What are the origins and hopes in the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, “Justice for All”? What are the origins and hopes in the Covenant, “Love is the Spirit of this Congregation”? What form and meanings will Justice take in the decades ahead?

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

First Fifteen—see above.

Sunday, April 22, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

When Should We Seek the Middle Ground?

Inspired in part by the current and very polarized debate around gun control and gun rights, the annual Senior High youth-led service will address the theme “When should we seek the middle ground?” Led by **UUCR’s Senior High Youth**.

Youth will provide special music; **Dick Gilbert** 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.

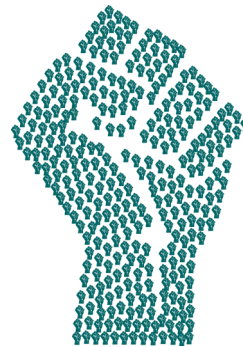
Sunday, April 29, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

Justice and Compassion

In many ancient cultures and throughout the world today, justice is carried out in a community and tribal context. Relationships and legacies often influenced what justice looked like—both to hold others accountable and to heal broken covenants. How does compassion relate to justice? **Rev. Savage** will explore this interweaving with special music by **Guest Musician Melanie DeMore**.

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.



May Theme: BEAUTY

FAITH FORMATION

Reflections

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

Our summer religious education program is growing! Last year we had record attendance with our Maker Space summer. This year we would like to expand programming to offer a Maker Space "Pray-ground". That is, all of our Maker Space activities will have a spiritual component. The middle and high school will have self-led board games and contemplation activities in the youth room (with adult supervision). The elementary school children will have a choice between a contemplative (quiet) room and an interactive activity-based room. In the contemplative room there will be age-appropriate activities that will include meditating, journaling, quiet drawing, prayer stations, etc. In the activity-based rooms, students will have an opportunity to engage with each other in making mandalas, labyrinths, clay objects, Lego-based houses of worship, etc.

In order to have this level of high-quality programming over the summer, **we are hiring a summer RE Sunday Lead!** This person will be responsible for being on-site for twelve Sundays over the summer and making sure all activities are set up and cleaned up each day. They will also make sure all volunteers are ready and equipped to engage with our children and youth each Sunday. There is a small stipend available for this position of about \$50/Sunday for a total of \$600 for the summer. The total time commitment would be about an hour (or less) of volunteer coordination over the week, plus an hour with the children and youth, and an hour (or less) of set-up and clean-up each Sunday. Familiarity with *Sign-up Genius* would be helpful. **If you are interested in this short-term paid position or know someone who might be, please contact Dayna at dedwards@uucr.org.**

To volunteer for a few Sundays this summer to engage with the children and/or youth please contact Rena at rgeibel@uucr.org (see below).



SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

[spiritual prompts + creative supplies] =
SPIRITUAL MAKERSPACE

[reflection prompts + sacred space] =
CONTEMPLATION ROOMS

FOSTER YOUR FAITH THIS SUMMER

guide children and youth in three different
spiritual contemplation and
makerspace rooms.

CONGREGATION WORKS

Recycling News—Snack Bag Collection Stopped

by Marsha Luce

The Snack Bag recycling program at UUCR is being terminated as of April 8, 2018. UUCR is still on the wait list for this program, and TerraCycle will no longer provide free shipping until we are accepted in the Snack Bag program. We are still collecting **energy bar wrappers** and **oral care products**:

- All foil lined energy bar, granola bar, meal replacement bar, protein bar, and diet bar wrappers.
- Toothpaste tubes, caps, toothbrushes, and floss containers. (*Electric toothbrushes, battery operated toothbrushes, and/or their parts are **not accepted**.*)

The collection bins are in the hallway between Founders Hall and the doors to the circle drive. Please only put the items listed above in the bins.

Once accepted into a program, shipping to TerraCycle is free and we receive points that can be redeemed for a variety of charitable gifts, products or payment of \$0.01 per point to the organization of our choice. TerraCycle upcycles and recycles traditionally non-recyclable waste into a large variety of consumer products. Visit www.dwellsmart.com/TerraCycle for a list of these products.

For questions, contact **Marsha Luce**. For more information, check out the [Green Team's blog](http://greenteamuucr.blogspot.com/): <http://greenteamuucr.blogspot.com/>.



The Art on Our Walls

by Liliane Blom and Sherry Dittmann, Aesthetics Committee



Our new artist is Anthony R. Williams. Anthony's medium is photography, and he has honed his skills through Smithsonian workshops, Afterdark.edu, and seminars. He is an active member of the Montgomery County Camera Club and recently mounted a show there titled *Genres*. Anthony shoots in color and black & white, and his subjects include a wide variety of people, travel, and wildlife.

More examples of his work may be seen at tealstreetphotography.com.

Anthony's art will hang until late May. Please join him to learn more about his works at a reception in the Corridor following the second service on Sunday, April 8.

Listening Circles Assessing Two-Services Format

Join our Two Services Transition Team to gain perspective on impacts of our two services as the Board and Staff discerns our worship format for Fall and the year ahead.

Here are Listening Circle Opportunities:

- Wednesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 29 during Middle Hour (10:15 a.m.)
- Sunday, May 6, 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (before and after services)

Cynthia Shires-Thurston and Jim Blue, Co-Chairs, Transition Team

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Youth, Together, March for Their Lives

I think of the song, “We Shall Not Be Moved” as sung by Pete Seeger, and the line “Black and White together, we shall not be moved,” while much of the nation supports the students of Parkland, FL, and the march planned for this Saturday. I pray that this moment addresses not only mass shootings in schools, but also the continuing “death by guns” in poor communities of color.



Writing in the Washington Post, Pastor Michael McBride, who serves a congregation in Berkeley, CA, calls us to hear voices of youth of color. He writes, “Amid personal pain the students of Parkland have articulated a sense of rage, conviction and moral clarity over the lack of action on gun violence. While their heroism is without question, we shouldn’t forget the broader choir of youth from Columbine to Ferguson to Baltimore who have harmonized their voices to plead for an end to gun violence in all of its forms. The ears of our nation have not been trained to hear the prophetic voices of poor youths of color.”

May we share a moment of silence on Saturday to remember all of the innocent children and youth killed by gun violence. May we both mourn the losses and also celebrate the courage of all youth who plead for the safety they need to live.

In Peace and Love,
Reverend Strauss & Reverend Savage

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup

by Bennett Rushkoff



On Saturday morning, April 14, from 9 a.m. to noon, UUCR volunteers will clean up their own registered site as part of the 30th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, an initiative of the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Children are welcome to participate with their parents.

Since 2013, UUCR has its own cleanup site -- one of hundreds of sites registered throughout the four-state Potomac watershed area. Once again, local Boy Scout Troop 291 will be joining us on cleanup day.

The goal is to remove recyclable bottles and cans, plastic bags, cigarette butts, food wrapping, scrap paper, and other discarded items from area streams, before they are eventually washed downstream into the Potomac River. The 2017 cleanup, which involved over 9,000 volunteers at 270 sites, removed an estimated 21,025 plastic bags from area watersheds.

UUCR's cleanup site runs for about half a mile along a Muddy Branch tributary, on the south side of Route 28, at the south edge of Gaithersburg.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at a small parking lot on the south side of Route 28, just west of Dufief Drive in North Potomac. Park there or on Dufief Drive, south of Route 28. Wear boots suitable for walking in mud and, if you can, bring a leaf rake. Trash collection bags, disposable gloves, and drinking water will be provided. For additional details, contact **Bennett Rushkoff**.

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Thinking of You

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

Charlie Eisenhauer is continuing his recovery from pneumonia in his apartment at Asbury. Cards are welcome. Members may contact the UUCR office for contact information.

Virginia and Erik Runko welcome their new arrival, **Leo Alexander Runko**, born in the afternoon of Monday, April 2, at 7 lbs 0 oz. and 19.5 inches long. Despite some sleep deprivation, the family is doing great!

Saturday, April 21, at 11:00 a.m.—**Memorial Service for Carole Danielson** at UUCR. Carole's sisters invites everyone to celebrate Carole's life.

Friday, May 11, in the afternoon (time TBD)—**Memorial Service for Jay LaMarche** at UUCR. Jay's daughter, Thea, invites all who remember Jay to come celebrate his life. Jay was a fixture and a fixer at UUCR for many years before moving to the West Coast. We remember Jay, his late wife Virginia, and Virginia's daughter, Margaret.

Saturday, May 26, at 2:00 p.m.—**Memorial Service for Robert Scheiber** at UUCR. Robert's sister Susie Spangler, his niece Jenny Lyons, and their entire family invite you to celebrate Robert's life and his love of music in particular.

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



New2UU Class Begins for Newcomers to UUCR

by Adrian Graham, Director of Communications & Membership

Beginning April 4, we will offer "New2UU" for those interested in membership, and for newcomers who are wish to learn about Unitarian Universalism in general and UUCR in particular.

Sign up for one of our two tracks by emailing me at agraham@uucr.org today!

Track I: Four Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary during Middle Hour between worship services (beginning *promptly* at 10:15 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.) — April 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Track II: Two Wednesday evenings (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) in Founders Hall — April 4 and 18.

Joining the congregation is not a requirement—but for those who complete an entire track, you will be invited to join at the end if you so choose. All new members will be recognized and welcomed during services on Sunday, May 6, and celebrated with a reception between services.

Email me with questions or to sign up! We start Wednesday April 4 (or Sunday April 8)! Don't worry if you can't make every session as scheduled—we can work out time to make up missed material.



ACTION AUCTION

What Can You Donate for the May 5 Action Auction

by Karl Irikura

UUCR's **Action Auction Fiesta Cruise** is a great event to share your skills, interests, and hobbies, meet new people, enjoy good food at our cruise ports-of-call in **México**, and help raise funds for UUCR in the process.

The cruise will be held **Saturday, May 5**, from 5 - 9 pm. It's a fun evening of silent and live bidding on special dinners, events, and services provided by congregation members and friends and by local businesses. It's a great way to discover and enjoy the



- Donate baked goods or gourmet meals
- Host a game night or pool party
- Host a brunch/lunch/dinner in your home
- Lead a hike, bike, canoe, or kayak trip
- Share about your travels
- Teach a musical instrument, sport, or other hobby
- Deliver fresh-picked berries to someone
- Donate time in your vacation home
- Donate restaurant or gift cards
- Provide a service (childcare, lawn care, tutoring, etc.)

Report from last year: Kathy and José Clemente hosted the **Taste of Brazil Dinner** and the **Caipirinha "Lessons"**. They say, "These activities not only help UUCR financially, but we also get to know a number of UUCR members. These gatherings have allowed us to have fun while giving guests a small taste of the Brazilian culture and food...."



Report from last year: April Pulvirenti **baked little pies and made applesauce**. "The entire process of donating items is thrilling—from watching the auction sheets fill with names during the dinner, to apple-picking and ingredient shopping, to cooking, and to seeing the light in the faces of the people when they pick up their pies and applesauce. It has been just a great feeling to share something I enjoy doing, while at the same time supporting UUCR."

Report from last year: Chris and Nick Kohout started an annual **family game night**. "It's fun to connect to folks on a deeper level than one finds in coffee hour chit-chat. Our family game night has helped us get to know other families with elementary-age children in the congregation. It has been a wonderful experience!"



Do you need help from a tradesman, a professional, or a handy-person?



- baby-sitting
- help in the garden
- computer help
- lawn mowing or yard work
- someone to paint your house
- repair work in your house

Just describe what you need, put what you're willing to pay, and at the Action Auction someone who is willing to provide that service will write their bidder number next to your offering.

To get more ideas, take a look at [last year's catalog](#).

For more information about the auction and the [2018 Donation Form](#) at the [2018 Action Auction web page \(www.uucr.org/auction\)](#)!

"Talk to us!" say Action Auction co-chairs **Carolyn Randall, Claudia Chitty, Liz Zerby, and Sandy Larkin**. They can be reached at auctionleads@uucr.org. You can also visit our table in Fellowship Hall.

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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.

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