

WORSHIP SERVICES

December Theme: THRESHOLD

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

Vivaldi's *Magnificat*

Come hear the choirs of both UUCR and the UU Congregation of Fairfax—80 singers plus orchestra! A lovely experience of shared joy through music.

Featured soloists: **Sarah Jebian** (soprano), **Allison Hughes** (mezzo-soprano), **Benjamin Whelan-Morin** (tenor), **Mark Wanich** (bass).

Orchestra: **Winston Davis**, **Heather Wong Voorhees** (Violin I); **Carol Bartholomew**, **Chelle Fulk** (Violin II); **Nicholas Black**, **Devan Costello Mays** (Viola); **Kristen Jones** (Cello); **Amanda Dusold** (Oboe I); **Mark Christianson** (Oboe II); **Justin Furnia** (Organ).

First Fifteen—Three to four Sundays a month, all ages* join in worship in the Sanctuary for the “First Fifteen” minutes. Today, after the First Fifteen, those in pre-K and Kindergarten will follow their teachers to their classroom. Grades 1-6 will meet in Founders Hall for pageant rehearsal and other activities.

(continued on page 2)

December 5, 2018

Quest

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

Lifelong Spiritual Discovery Beloved Community A Just World

Volume LXII, Number 4
December 5, 2018

Editor & Publisher:
Adrian L. H. Graham

DeLynneations

by Rev. Lynn Strauss

Years ago, at a silent retreat...I entered a mud and thatched meditation hut. There was room for four or five seekers, but I was alone in the dark. I still remember the damp earthy smell, the single candle flame, the longing for wisdom, my beating heart.

“Entering”

by L. Strauss

Will you step through?
Will you enter the dark?
Sit in the old shrine in silence.
Listen. Listen.
Do you hear the wind, the wail, the way?

Will you step through?
Will you wait?
Bring your fear, your need, your flaws.
Wait. Wait.
Feel the mystery, let tears flow.

Will you step through?
Will you welcome the mystery?
Invite the dark, the wind, the mystery.
Hush. Hush.
Your heart is breaking open.

Have you entered the seed within?
Are you growing new roots?
Notice your small light.
Courage. Courage.
You are becoming Flame.

Will you step through into a wider Love?
Burn. Burn.
Hear the wind, the wail; follow the Mystery, follow the Way.

-following a question by poet David Whyte



Quest deadline: Thursday, **January 3, 2019** at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on **January 9, 2019**.
Email to 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: Carla Miller
Director of Music: Sarah Jebian
Director of Communications & Membership:
Adrian L. H. Graham
Church Administrator: Donna Taylor
RE & Youth Assistant: Anne Chernikoff
Pianist: Justin Furnia
Building Sexton: Justin Onyeador

Board of Trustees

Colleen Dolak, President
Mary Carvajal, Vice President
Peter Shaw, Secretary
Christy Shannon, Treasurer
Dana Alzouma
Glenn Griffin
Aaron Pied
Steve Eckstrand, Immediate Past President

Officers

Secretary: Peter Shaw
Treasurer: Christy Shannon
Assistant Treasurers: Eric Burch
Barbara Harrison

Quest Staff

Editor-in-Chief/Coordinator: Adrian Graham
Desktop Publisher: Adrian Graham

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. Postage is paid at Rockville, MD. All rights reserved. Postmaster: Send address changes to Circulation Manager, *Quest*, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

(Worship Services continued from page 1)

Sunday, December 16, 9:00 a.m.

Newborn Joy 1

While children are getting ready for the pageant taking place at 11:15 a.m. today, **Rev. Lynn Strauss** will lead a quiet joyful service of stories and carols in Founders Hall. All ages welcome.

We are joined for this service by guest pianist **Gena Photiadis**.

Special Programming—Children and Youth participating in today's pageant will gather for rehearsal in the Sanctuary. Pre-K and Kindergarten will leave with their teachers for class. Those not participating in the pageant will have other activities, or have the option to attend the worship service in Founders Hall with their families. Nursery care for infants—3-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, December 16, 11:15 a.m.

HOLIDAY PAGEANT

Newborn Joy 2

A Holiday Pageant by animals and angels. Fun and singing for all ages!

We are joined for this service by guest pianist **Gena Photiadis**.

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, December 23, 10:00 a.m. ONLY

Promise of the Dark

Join us for a service of winter blessings in Founders Hall, led by **Rev. Rebekah Savage**. Special music by **Sarah Jebian**.

Multigenerational Service (in Founders Hall)—see above.

Monday, December 24, 4:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE: *Celebrating Story and Ritual*

A family-friendly service with candle lighting, led by **Rev. Savage**. Bring cookies on a serving plate to share at the reception after the service!

Monday, December 24, 8:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE: *Keep Hope Alive*

A celebration of Christmas with our Adult Choir and a homily by **Rev. Strauss**. Bring cookies on a serving plate to share at the reception after the service!

(continued on page 4)

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Of Note...in December

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

There are some wonderful things in store for you during this month of celebration, contemplation, and anticipation of the New Year:

December 9 – Don't miss UUCR's Adult Choir along with the Community Chorale of UU Fairfax in this joint presentation of Vivaldi's *Magnificat*. Upwards of 80 singers will be supported by a small orchestra comprised of musicians from both communities. The program will feature soloists Allison Hughes (mezzo), Benjamin Whelan-Morin (tenor), and Mark Wanich (bass), along with UUCR's own Director of Music, Sarah Jebian (soprano)! Director of Music & Arts at UU Fairfax, Laura Weiss, will conduct.



December 16 – Jazz Pianist Gena Photiadis will provide special music during the 9:00 a.m. service and accompany the annual pageant during the 11:15 a.m. service. Gena graduated from George Mason University in 2011 with a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance and a Jazz Studies minor. In 2009, she competed in the Schlern International Music Competition in Northern Italy, where she won first place. She plays several different styles of music, including jazz, funk, R&B, classical, and choral. Gena regularly performs at venues throughout the DC Metropolitan area, including the Kennedy Center, the Howard Theatre, Gypsy Sally's, Bethesda Blues and Jazz Club, Iota Club and Cafe, Rock and Roll Hotel, and others. In addition to an active performance career, Gena teaches regularly. She maintains a private studio in Washington, DC, and is involved with outreach education in schools and retirement communities.

There is also some lovely music planned for our Winter Solstice service on December 23, and our 8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service featuring the Adult Choir.

As the weather turns colder and the days become shorter, may we carry the warmth of community in our hearts.

Sarah

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Family FUUN Session 2 Begins January 10!

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

Join us for more FUUN as the second session of the Family FUUN Ensemble begins on Thursday, January 10, at 5:00 p.m. The session lasts for five weeks and culminates in a performance during our worship services on February 10.

Each session begins with a shared potluck dinner. This was the favorite part of the evening for just about everyone and is a great time to get to know each other. After dinner...who knows? Although the ensemble is guided by Sarah Jebian and Barbara Weis, our FUUN activities are tailored to the group's interests and gifts so every session will be a little different depending on who signs up. During our first session, we created art for the *ArtsConnect* event, played theater games, learned some of our UU hymns and wrote a short skit about the climate crisis facing our world which we shared with the UUCR community during worship.



Here's what some of the participants from Session 1 had to say:

"When first asked if they wanted to do the Family FUUN ensemble, my daUUghters (aged 6 and 11), said: "Sure, I guess." By the mid-point of the Fall offering, it had become something they looked forward to each week. By the end, they were begging to keep doing it. We all foUUnd it to be a very fUUun and fUUlfilling endeavor!" ~Don Helton

"Family FUUN was great because we got to play and have fun with other families we don't usually see." ~Rohan Haugen, youth

"I liked singing and drawing and dancing!" ~Arjun Haugen, youth

"It was very fun. I liked the activities. I enjoyed planning and practicing our skit." ~Stella Newhouse, youth

Come be part of the FUUN! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/FUUN-2019>.

(Worship Services continued from page 2)

Sunday, December 30, 10:00 a.m. ONLY

PJs, Poetry, and Pancakes

Come early at 9:00 a.m. for pancakes...bring a poem to share in the service. And wear your PJs! **Rev. Savage** will lead this service in Founders Hall.

January Theme: MYSTERY

Sunday, January 6, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

What Disguises Do You Choose?

Rev. Strauss invites you to step back and consider what disguise is most comfortable for you; how many "masks" do you wear? What different choices might you make in the new year? Are there disguises that are adaptive in a productive way? Are there some necessary for your very survival?

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

Chalice Chapel—One Sunday in most months, children and youth gather in Founders Hall for worship where they will sing, share, and create together. Nursery care for infants—3-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

SHARING THE MINISTRY

ArtsConnect II: #BeholdHERstory

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

The second of UUCR's new community arts event series – *ArtsConnect* – will take place on Sunday, January 27 beginning at 2:00 p.m. The theme is #BeholdHERstory and the event will focus on lifting up women's stories of triumph and tragedy, motherhood, entrepreneurship, artistry, pain, joy, dreams achieved, unrequited love, and so much more.

If you are a female or trans-feminine person of any age, we encourage you to submit a framed photograph of yourself decorated with an "I Am..." statement. Feminist men and trans-masculine people may submit a framed photograph in honor of a female who inspired your feminist allyship, decorated with a "She Is / Was..." statement.

Along with your photograph: Do you have an interesting story to tell? Is your "I Am..." statement inspired by a true life event? If you answered yes to either of these questions, please consider sharing your story during the event. UUCR will be hosting a 'human library' of sorts. It's kind of like speed dating. The audience members will be able to 'check out' a human 'book' to learn about their story. Every five minutes or so, a signal will be given to move to a new 'book'. Just imagine the rich potential for connection and conversation!

Samples and submission guidelines are available at <https://uucrmusic.weebly.com/art-submissions.html>. Submissions are due no later than January 20.

In addition to the photographs and shared stories, we look forward to welcoming the incredible Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet as our special musical guest. Critics have declared Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet (UVJQ): "*as versatile and entertaining as any vocal group you will hear*" ... "*electrifying*" ... "*pure fun*" ... "*sensational*" ... "*exceptional*" ... "*old school moving to new cool*" ... "*vocalese at its best.*" Countless reviewers, broadcasters, and listeners worldwide have praised them as a standout for their creative originality and superb musicality. For more than two decades, UVJQ (*Ginny Carr, Robert McBride, Holly Shockey, André Enceneat*) backed by their jazz rhythm section (*Alan Blackman, piano; Max Murray, bass; Steve Herberman, guitar; Frank Russo, drums*) have built a loyal audience across five continents with their stylized arrangements of head-turning original songs and harmonically rich renditions of American Songbook classics. With their tight harmonies, engaging presentation and vocal sass, Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet (UVJQ) has put their creative signature on the group vocal style that mixes great fun with great art. They have been highly celebrated for extending the vocal jazz repertoire beyond standards and made their own songbook of originals the spotlight of their ear-popping arrangements.

We hope you'll consider being a part of HERstory in the making.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Environmental Action Opportunity: Let's Get Green Going!

by Len Cohen, Environmental Action



UUCR's Green Team (now known as "Environmental Action") has been active over the past few years. We have been certified by the UUA as a Green Sanctuary. Our solar panels are providing about one quarter of UUCR's electricity. The solar panels have saved UUCR over \$5,000 in 3 years. We have also participated in stream cleanups and removed invasive species of plants from our grounds.

We are looking forward to more success stories and environmental action! We now want to partner with RE to reinforce environmental principles in our children and provide leadership opportunities for our high school youth. Carla Miller, Director of Religious Education, is ready to work with us. In addition, we have connected with other faith groups and activists to influence environmental issues in Montgomery County. In this time of challenge, we seek to live our Seventh Principle – respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Several key people who provided leadership to the Green Team have moved away or on to other challenges. We need you to work on your own, or with another new "green" volunteer, to direct our plans and actions going forward. We want your energy and ideas! Previous experience unnecessary. New members are very welcome; new experiences and friends likely!

We would like to have an active "Earth Month" leading up to Earth Day in April, and the time to start planning is now. We have ideas; maybe you do, too. All we need is you to get things going. Please contact Len Cohen, Terrie Barr, or Sean McCarthy, to discuss how you can help lead Environmental Action. We will mentor you as much or as little as you want.



FAITH FORMATION

Reflections...

by Carla Miller, Director of Religious Education

UUCR's **9:00 a.m. Children's Faith Formation** is going to look a little bit different beginning in January. We are creating a multi-age, thematic program for ages 4-11 (Pre-K – 6th grade) which we are calling "**Faith Explorers.**" This spiritual, theme-based children's faith formation experience will encourage each participant to **seek, create, explore, act, and practice** allowing for multiple expressions and play within Unitarian Universalist faith formation. Does this seem like a good fit your child's learning style? Join us in the 9:00 a.m. timeslot.



"Faith Explorers" is designed to better fit the needs of our smaller group sizes at 9:00 a.m., and more importantly, to offer the variety in programming that can meet the needs of all children and families. All are welcome! Our 11:15 a.m. classes will also happily welcome any children who might now prefer to attend during second service.

If you would like to register specifically "Faith Explorers," it will be helpful to us to better estimate our numbers and volunteer needs. This is not necessary, but helpful. To indicate this preference, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/UUCR-9AM>.

Classes meeting at 11:15 a.m., and Middle Hour Faith Formation groups, will continue as in the fall.

If you can **volunteer** and help us get started with "Faith Explorers," please contact me at cmiller@uucr.org.

Carla

CONGREGATION WORKS

The Art on Our Walls

by Liliane Blom and Sharrill Dittmann, Aesthetics Committee

We are pleased to welcome eight artists from the Compass Atelier for a show through January 20. The Atelier is located in the Artists and Makers Studio in Rockville, and several of our artists are taking or have taken classes there. You will see some lovely paintings of lavender fields, the results of a group trip to France.



Our Atelier artists come from several career paths – both artistic and not. For example, Eve has studied both art and dentistry; Sara arrived with experience in interior design; Joanne was a speech and language pathologist; and Richard was a graphic artist. They each bring their own style as you can see. Please take a minute to study their biographies in the notebooks by the price lists.

There will be a **reception for the artists on December 9** in the Corridor after the second service. Please stop by to meet them and to learn more about their art and their journeys.

CONGREGATION WORKS

From the Archives

by Maude McGovern

Early Christmases

At the church's first Christmas service (1956 in Richard Montgomery High School), approximately 100 adults and children sang carols including "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful," and decorated a mitten tree. Soon services moved to the present-day Beall Elementary School. Membership grew rapidly and classes swelled with little Baby Boomers. In 1959, with over 200 students and limited space, the family service had to be "run with split-second accuracy of timing." Services became less traditional featuring children's pageants such as Lights of Christmas (1957) with sections on "Fire and the Cave Man" and "Saturnalia."

Congregants collected gifts for people such as poor children in Washington and patients in Maryland's state hospitals for the mentally ill. Instead of sending cards to all one's church friends, folks were urged to hang one card on a board and donate the money saved to UCR.

Some years, adults reveled at the Rockville Civic Center with dancing and "eggnog with and without." (If eggnog wasn't your thing, guests were instructed to "BYOL" in 1958.) More sedate caroling parties were also scheduled. The most memorable one was late Christmas afternoon, 1962, when members sang around a bonfire on the land they had recently purchased. Finally in 1964 they celebrated Christmas in their own, our own, building.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON
THE CHURCH LAND
Probably 1962

Caroling on Church Land, Christmas 1962

THINKING OF YOU & WINTER CELEBRATIONS

Thinking of You

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

[George Leonard](#), age 96, died November 20 at his home in Rockville. George and his late wife Phyllis were founding members of our congregation in 1959 and he was one of the members who marched from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in March 1965. George is survived by two children, Jonathan and Elissa, and six grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Phyllis and son Jeffrey.



Former UUCR member [Donna Hickman](#) died November 27 in Chestertown, Maryland. A Memorial Service will be held at the Chestertown Unitarian Universalist Church on Saturday, December 8, at 11:00 a.m.

Sarah Beacom is recovering after shoulder surgery and sends this message: “With gratitude to everyone, especially the Pastoral Care Team for your help, and to Liliane and Steve for taking me under their wing. This loving care is a warm blanket of positive energy helping in my recuperation from surgery.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, December 30, 10:00 a.m.—Founders Hall
“Poetry, PJ’s, and Pancakes” Sunday



Quest

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ROCKVILLE, MD
PERMIT NO. 121

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

December 5, 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.

In addition to these Seven Principles drawn from the Principles and Purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), we as a congregation have also elected to affirm and promote a proposed Eighth Principle:

- 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