
WORSHIP SERVICES

December Theme: AWE

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

Waiting in Awe

Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles considers what it means to be in a state of expectation, knowing that something's coming but not sure what it is. How can we use this time to open our hearts to the awe of this life?

Special music by **WildBerry Jam**, with **Dick Gilbert** on 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., Dec 15, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

Responsibility to Awe

If we journey outside in the dark of night, at times we are rewarded with a blanket of stars. The great expanse of creation is humbling to behold. *Soul Matters* asks us this month: “Have you ever turned to the stars for support?”

(continued on page 2)

December 4, 2019

Quest

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

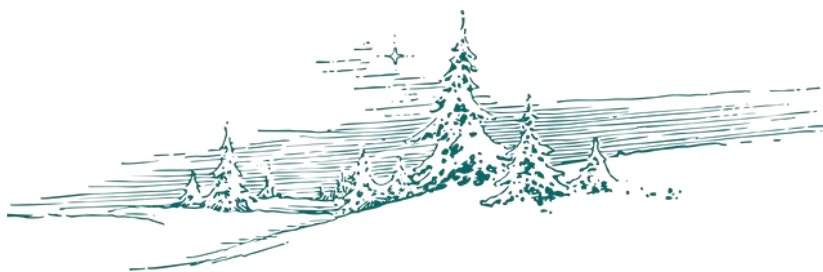
Lifelong Spiritual Discovery Beloved Community A Just World

Volume LXIII, Number 4
December 4, 2019

Editor & Publisher:
Adrian L. H. Graham

In the Interim...

by the Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles



As we enter the season of festivities, celebrations, parties, and present-giving, I hope everyone keeps a place in their lives for “awe” (which also happens to be our theme this month). Feel the mystery of a quiet winter night; rest for a while and savor the time, your thoughts, those you love.

The world and our Capitol are abuzz with many important events and dramas. At church, we are abuzz with many wonderful programs and planning. May we remember to engage, and also to step back; to notice the Solstice season, the long nights and slanting sunlight; to see the world a little differently for awhile.

For those who are in despair, may you find comfort. For those who are overbooked, may you find space. And for all of us, may we find a deep joy and a reminder that life is worth our awe.

Quest deadline: Thursday, **December 19, 2019** at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on **January 8, 2019**.
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
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Pianist: Justin Furnia
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(Worship Services continued from page 1)

Comfort? Escape? Connection?” As we enter into a holy time of year, we consider our responsibility to awe as a spiritual practice. Led by **Rev. Rebekah Savage**.

Special music by **Karl Irikura**, viola; **Rick Stumpf**, clarinet; and **Justin Furnia**, piano.

First Fifteen—see above.

Sunday, December 22, 9:00 a.m. ONLY

Awe: Winter Solstice

Yule, the winter solstice, is a time of darkness and rebirth. The days have grown shorter and we await the return of spring, of light, and of warmth, in seasonal celebrations. Come join us as we mark the passing of time, the turning of the Earth, and the seasons’ ebb and flow. A special service led by members of the **Wheel of the Year Group and Director of Music Sarah Jebian**.

Sonaria will sing. **Justin Furnia**, piano.

Multigenerational Service—All* gather together in the Sanctuary for this service. *Nursery care for infants—4-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, December 22, 11:15 a.m. ONLY

December Spirits: A Winter Pageant

This year’s pageant, *December Spirits* (adapted from Richard Kimball) celebrates not only Christmas, but Hanukkah and the Solstice as well. We’ll enjoy the charm and good cheer of our children’s pageant, enhanced by an all-ages **Pageant Choir**.

Justin Furnia, piano.

Multigenerational Service—see above.

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

CHRISTMAS EVE: *The Awe of Birth*

This family-friendly service, led by our ministers, features traditional Christmas carols, readings and stories, the dedication of children of the congregation, and a candlelit singing of “Silent Night.”

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

CHRISTMAS EVE: *The Awe of a Holy Night*

The ministers and choir invite all to join in a service of music and reading, to mark the wonder and beauty of Christmas Eve. As we welcome the night and await the dawning of a Christmas Day, we will share in a candlelit singing of “Silent Night.”

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CONGREGATION WORKS

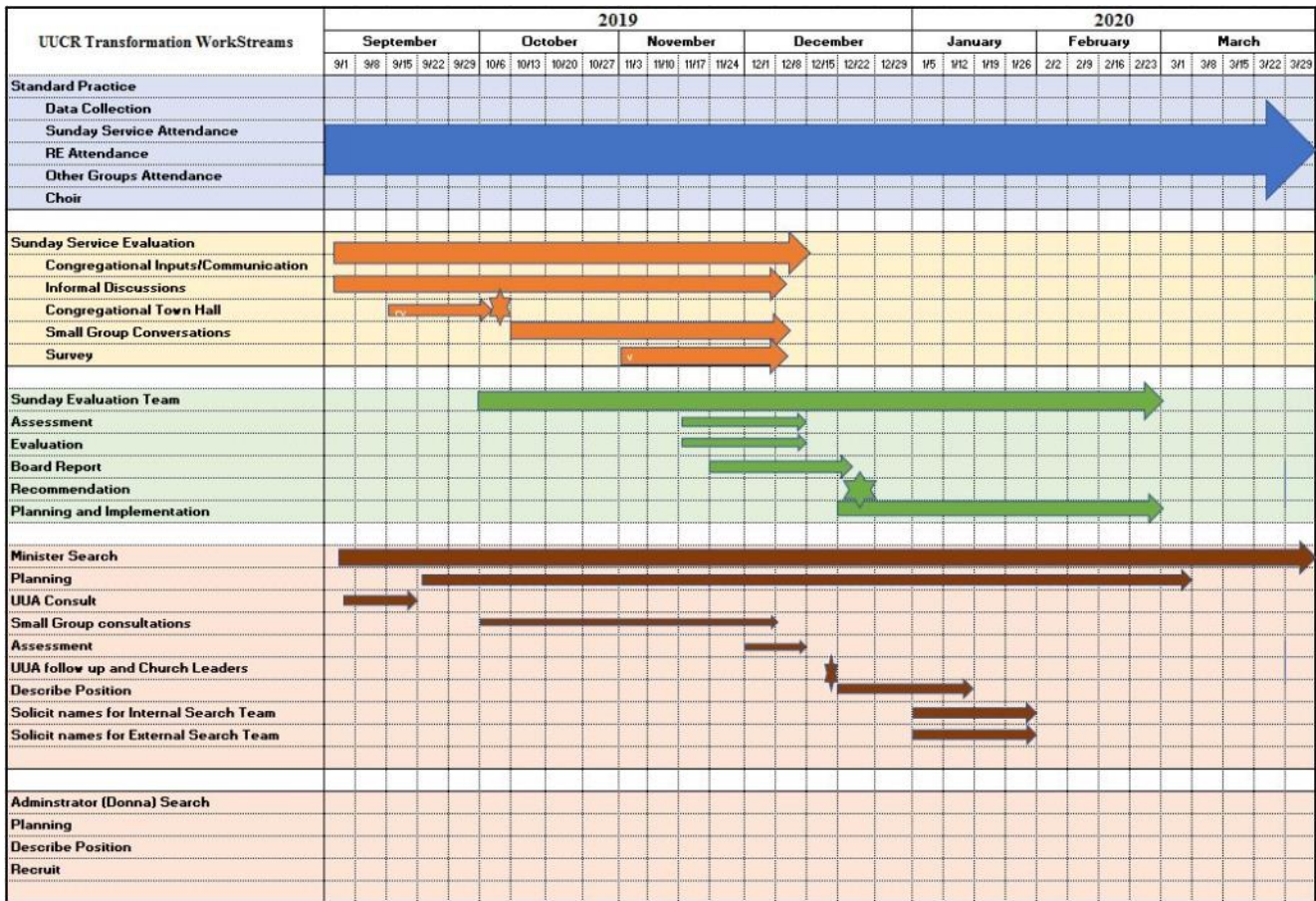
What's Going On? A Timeline

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

We have listened to more than 80 of you in Conversation Circles facilitated by the Interim Task Team. (Thank you to Jill Asman, Dana Alzouma, Ellen Rohan, Michael Mignano, Jon Facemore, and Jenn Pong!)

We have collected surveys from just under 200 respondents.

Now, the Sunday Schedule Review Team will collect, summarize, and interpret the results, along with attendance figures. (Many thanks to Andrea Hall, Bruce Baskett, Dave Marks, Carla Rodriguez, Michael Mignano, and Emily Untermeyer!) They will deliver their report to the Board mid-December, and the Board and other leaders will have a conversation about recommendations they might make. After the staff hear recommendations from leadership and the congregation, in the New Year, they will begin to develop a plan to implement what will make our Sunday morning schedule best match UU-CR's mission and the input of the congregation.



In Search of a New Congregation Administrator

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

Our beloved Administrator, Donna Taylor, has let us know that she is retiring at the end of March. We are grateful to Personnel Committee members Bill Hurlbut and Viki Betancourt for developing a job description to prepare us to search for a new Congregation Administrator. And we are grateful to the Administrator Search Team who will begin their work in December: Karen Pittleman, Martha Taylor, Dan Pierce, Ellen Rohan, and Cynthia Shires-Thurston.

It is not UUCR's practice to consider church members for staff positions, but you could help us by spreading the word to anyone you know who might be interested. Begin at uucr.org/employment-opportunities.

CONGREGATION WORKS

Leadership Team Update

by Terrie Barr, Leadership Development Plan Team

The Leadership Development Plan Team continues its work on a proposed leadership recruitment and development plan. We will transmit recommendations to the Board of Trustees in February 2020. This strategic plan objective is scheduled to be implemented in 2020-21. This is big; it's about preparing a new generation of UUCR leaders.

In the past few months, we have drafted a Vision and Mission for the program. We supported the Storytelling Workshop: Deepening Engagement and Relationship Building. Many thanks to Elsa Powel Strong for piloting this class. We finalized our recommendations regarding recruitment approaches and who should have a role in recruitment of leaders. We completed recommendations regarding self-evaluation based on nine core leadership qualities. We have a Coaching Proposal for both emerging and current leaders thanks to Janet Buck's generosity.

Although they are not identical, we have matched our core leadership competencies to UUA leadership competencies. The UUA competencies include a description, values, practices, and resources: videos, websites, on-demand webinars, articles, and books. These will make course development a matter of choosing from a richness of resources.

We met with Rev Linda to update her and to seek her wisdom on our effort. We agreed on recommendations for a curriculum. We will recommend that our ministers and UUCR members facilitate this training. We will also recommend elective courses and programs that can be completed independently to align with our core leadership qualities. We hope that you will contact Michael Mignano, Sherry Dittmann, Bonnie Bloomquist, Fran Lowe, or Terrie Barr for more information.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Partner Plate Update

by Mary Hoferek and Sean McCarthy, Social Justice Committee

On November 26, UUCR stepped up to help the [Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless](#) (MCCH) after its evacuation last spring to temporary rented quarters from its emergency shelter for men and administrative offices on East Gude Drive, Rockville. Interim Minister Linda Olson Peebles presented a check for \$2,888.09 from UUCR's September-October Partner Plate collection to MCCH representative Lynn Rose. UUCR member Mary Hoferek, who nominated the charity, and UUCR Social Justice Committee Chair Sean McCarthy looked on.

UUCR has a long history of helping the homeless and appreciates everyone who contributed to this continuing effort. The congregation also made a contribution to MCCH's Safe Haven when it was the Partner Plate recipient in January-February 2019, and a \$500 contribution to MCCH in August, 2019 from the UUCR FY 2019-20 budget funded by the Canvass.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Racial Justice at UUCR: How You Can Be Involved

by Marie Reed, Racial Justice Working Group

Coming to the Table (CTTT) Monthly Conversations on Race. Held on the first Monday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., CTTT offers facilitated conversations of respectful and honest sharing to promote healing from racism's harm and to support racial reconciliation.

All those interested in developing deeper understanding, empathy, and

meaningful connections in the context of issues of race are invited to attend. Please stop by the Racial Justice table on Sunday mornings for more information. You can register online [here](#).



An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States. The Racial Justice team is sponsoring a three-part book discussion of this important UUA Common Read by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. The book takes time to read and absorb. We urge those who are interested to purchase a copy now! And mark your calendars for these Wednesdays: February 12, March 11, and April 1 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. You can register online [here](#).

ArtsConnect "Race and #RealTalk" Benefit Concert. The afternoon of Sunday, December 15 at UUCR. An inspiring concert with HALO, including our own Niambi Powell. Please see page 8 in this issue of *Quest* for details.

NOTE: If you would like to receive periodic notices on programs and efforts you can be involved in, please email racialjustice@uucr.org. We don't know everything that's going on, and we limit our e-mailings, but we do try to update folks who are interested.

UU the Vote

by Betsy Wilder and Marie Reed, UUCR GOTV Coordinators



"We are less than twelve months away from the most critical elections in our lifetimes. We must not be on the sidelines." Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President.

This quote from the UUA President in the *UU World* magazine challenges us to practice our principles in 2020. It is a call to action in the support of democracy at its core: to Get Out the Vote. As UUA promotes a "[UU the Vote](#)" campaign, we at UUCR have an opportunity to grow as a community, working together in support of this effort. From January through October, we can partner with local non-partisan organizations to reach underserved communities, encouraging voters to get to the polls and registering new voters. Hand-written letters catch the attention of disengaged voters and have been shown to have an impact: a few percentage points can make or break a close election. Door-to-door campaigns and phone banking are also effective strategies, particularly in swing states such as Virginia and Pennsylvania.

We will need lots of letter writers, hosts for letter writing events, and people who enjoy face-to-face or telephone interactions to be involved in this effort from January through October. Plan to attend a **congregational planning session on January 12 during Middle Hour**. In the meantime, [sign up here](#) to let us know your interests and contact **Betsy Wilder** or **Marie Reed** for more information.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Police Accountability Workshop Overflows

by UUCR member Steve Lapham, member of the Silver Spring Justice Coalition

The 70 chairs in the room were not enough to hold the overflow audience on November 6 at the Silver Spring Civic Center, where Rev. Katie Romano Griffin, associate minister at Cedar Lane UU Church, offered the opening words. County Councilor Will Jawando, State Senator Melony Ghee Griffith, and State Delegates Gabriel Acevero, Erik L. Barron, and Charlotte Crutchfield spoke and participated in Q&A panels. Three county residents gave personal testimony of police misconduct: a landscape company owner who was denied a complaint form when he went to the police station after the incident; a woman whose son was interviewed by police at school for playing with play money; and a woman who feared that her failure to respond to a police command (because she is deaf) will someday result in her being shot, as was Robert White in 2018.

Although he was not on the agenda, MCPD Police Chief Marcus Jones arrived and was invited to briefly speak and take questions. Numerous civil rights activists and attorneys were present, including Carlean Ponder, who MC'd the event and noted that we can all advocate for nascent county reforms now [e.g. a civilian-led Police Advisory Commission] and state reforms in the early months of 2020 (to increase transparency and accountability, and to confront white supremacist subculture with our police forces). Ponder is a leader of the Silver Spring Justice Coalition. Other sponsors were the Racial Justice Working Group, UUCR; Racial Justice Task Force, UU Church of Silver Spring; Together Diversity Team, Cedar Lane UU Church; Jews United for Justice; and Racial Justice Now! DMV; and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). UUCR members Fran Lowe, Laura Kelsey Rhodes, Alonzo Smith, Sean McCarthy, and Steve Lapham attended.

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Veterans Day Service: A Reflection

by Marie Vivas

On Sunday, November 10, the Veterans Day Service was extremely moving for many of us in the congregation. It inspired me to write this reflection:

Today Reverend Rebekah gifted us with a moving story of a sacred and difficult moment during her time as an army chaplain in Afghanistan. Around me I heard men and women crying at the tragedy of young men dying on the battlefield and the beauty of the compassion that the chaplain brought to the ceremony of returning these young soldiers home.

Today we reflected upon the role of the warrior in our society. However we may feel about a specific war, warriors have been a part of human existence since recorded history began. They are there to protect. They are there to fight. They are there to do things none of us wants to do. They are mostly young.

The question on our minds is how do we help these people come back home and try to lead common everyday lives after what they have experienced. The question is how do we support their families when they have lost a loved one?

Most of the Veterans I have known have been pacifists. Having seen war they understand the value of peace. Today's readings were telling us that story. The story of the soldier who wants to just be.

After the sermon the Rev invited congregants to come and tie a string to the branches on the altar. Each string represents the story of a Veteran. Jenny went up to honor Warren. My father in law, a man who served in the Second World War, was shot down over enemy territory, was a prisoner of war in Germany. A man who came home and devoted his life to promoting peace. Nothing more than doing his duty.

And, this, this, this is the lesson. For as long as our society exists, young people will be asked to go to war. Some will never come home. But, for those who do, can we give them the compassion they need? Can we make sure that the resources exist to give them the support they need to really, really, come home?

Up until today my image of a military chaplain was Father Mulcahey in M.A.S.H—but as I watched Reverend Rebekah transform from Minister to Chaplain I understood that these are not fictional characters. In the words of Holly Near, they are the ones who fight for peace"

Quest — 6



December 4, 2019

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Thinking of You

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

With a heavy heart, we share the sad news that **John McIlwaine** died suddenly on Thanksgiving Day. Please hold in your hearts all those at UUCR who are close to him. John was a pillar of the community, and selflessly devoted to being of service as a warm greeter and pastoral care volunteer. He spent much of his free time driving those who needed help with transportation to/from appointments and to worship. Plans for a memorial service at UUCR are still being formed.



Glenn Griffin was scheduled to have knee surgery on December 2, so he should be just starting his recovery when this issue of *Quest* is received. We are wishing him a speedy recovery.

Maude McGovern has moved to Connecticut and sends greetings: “Paul and I are happily settled in Manchester, CT. It’s lovely to have all our family so close by, and we have a lot of fun together. I’m glad to be back home in the New England landscape—beautiful old buildings, stone walls, and woods and trails all around, even right behind our home. Of course, that’s after a lovely moderate summer and glorious fall. Ask us how we like it here around February. What won’t change is the warm spot UUCR will always have in my heart.”

Cynthia Bauerle writes: “Dear UUCR, I’m pleased to say that Robbie and Cynthia are cohabitating again after three long and eventful years living apart due to their work situation. We have settled in Harrisonburg, VA where Cynthia is still working at JMU and Robbie is establishing her interests and involvements in her ‘first retirement.’ We are slowly plugging into this rural/university community and seeking a new congregation we can call our spiritual home. Harrisonburg has much to offer and we are enjoying the chance to explore and discover it together! We both have so many memories of the UUCR community and the wonderful people who connected with us and called us friends. You welcomed our family and made space for each of us to contribute to the work of the congregation. You inspired, challenged, loved, moved, educated and supported us. You formed the circle we were married in. You held us tight so many times, whether you knew it or not, and also when it was time, you let us go. Thank you. And so it is time for us to acknowledge that we are moving on, and have asked Adrian to remove us from the active roster. Please reach out if you are ever in the Harrisonburg area—we’d love to show you around our new home. Our emails remain the same. With love and gratitude, **Cynthia Bauerle and Robbie Reasoner.**”

Adrian Graham is mourning the loss of his grandmother, **Vera Lucille Preston**, who died on November 18 at the age of 90. A funeral service was held in Ocala, FL, on November 25. Adrian appreciates all the compassionate care he has received from the UUCR community in such a difficult year of losses in his family.

In November, members of UUCR squeezed their signatures and kind thoughts on greeting cards that the Pastoral Care Team sent to members who cannot regularly attend services. Watch the Sunday order of service for other opportunities to do this.

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



SHARING THE MINISTRY

ArtsConnect at UUCR—Benefit Concert on December 15!

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

The *ArtsConnect* program at UUCR uses a variety of creative art forms to lift up the social issues of our time and to deepen our connections with each other, with the greater Montgomery County area, and nearby Beltway communities.



Our 2019-2020 season, “The Power of We,” will focus on the issues of racism and the immigration crisis in America. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in the interdependent web of life. Nothing exists in a vacuum. We are dependent upon each other to survive and no one is truly free until we are all free. It is “The Power of We” that makes America great.

The current season is supported by the following UUCR teams: Music & Arts Council, Immigration Action Group, Racial Justice Working Group, Family Faith Formation Team, and Adult Faith Formation Committee. *ArtsConnect* is also funded in part by the [Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility](#).

Race & #RealTalk

ArtsConnect began back in October with a six-part workshop series led by UUCR member Niambi Powell and members of HALO, Niambi’s barbershop quartet. Race & #RealTalk uses the unique harmonic structure of barbershop music to dismantle systems of white supremacy.

Creating the Art

ArtsConnect is thrilled to be working with local Argentinian artist Rosana Azar to create our art exhibits for the winter and spring *ArtsConnect* events. The art featured in this show was created by members and friends of UUCR during a half-day workshop led by Ms. Azar. The individual pieces reflect the stories of where participants’ families came from and where they might be heading in the future. Special thanks to UUCR’s Quilters group for helping to create the final artwork. In addition to the piece created by our community, we will feature several pieces by local artist Richard Levine as well as artists from Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York.

The Benefit Concert

Don't miss this very special, one-night-only concert event featuring the incredible artistry of HALO. HALO will be joined onstage by Strictly Vocals, Hennessy, Key of E, Lisa Bromfield, Angela Bowden, and the participants of the “Race & #RealTalk” workshop series. The concert is free and family-friendly, but we ask every attendee for a generous free-will donation. This donation will help support the work of Direct [Support for Immigrants](#), our *ArtsConnect* 2019-2020 beneficiary. *Even if you can't attend the concert, please consider making a generous donation.* Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted during Middle Hour at the Music & Arts table, at the event, or [online](#). Thank you for your support!

When & Where?

Sunday, December 15, 2019 | Art & Wine Reception at 6:00 p.m. | Concert at 7:00 p.m.
Founders Hall, Corridor, Sanctuary

(continued on page 11)

SHARING THE MINISTRY

(Worship Services continued from page 2)

Sunday, December 29, 10:00 a.m. ONLY

Poetry, PJs, and Pancakes

Join us for a new-ish UUCR tradition for our 5th annual Poetry, PJs, and Pancakes! Poetry expresses the infinite with brevity and raw emotion. Poetry can inspire and change how we see the world. Come in your favorite PJs with a beloved poem or two, enjoy a pancake breakfast before the service, and we will enjoy a casual time of worship together. Come be fed in body and soul! Led by **Rev. Rebekah Savage**.

January Theme: INTEGRITY

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

Service Details TBD

Chalice Chapel—On the first Sunday of each month, children in K through 5th grade gather in Founders Hall for worship where they will sing, share, and create together. Nursery care for infants—4-year-olds is available during the entire service in Building 3, Room 33.

I'm Playing Bach Now

by Justin Furnia, Pianist

I never used to enjoy practicing Bach, so what change has come over me? I used to find it boring—oppressive, even. Bach sweeps you along, as it were. When playing Bach, you are caught up, helplessly, in his thought, and there is little room for your “self” to assert its presence.

Who, or what force of energy, is really playing when I am sitting at the piano at church and out flows the strands of a Bach Fugue? So many years of prior training have to kick into gear in order to play such complex music. And so much can go wrong for which I somehow don't feel completely responsible. I'm sitting in the passenger seat watching—as if from a million miles away—hoping that both the driver and I make it out alive without ending up mangled at the bottom of a ravine. But who am “I” and who is the driver? And why is this experience so thrilling? Why do I need it so? And why do I feel so refreshed afterwards, as if I had gone on a long hike, unplanned and unmapped? I should feel trapped, but instead, I feel the cool breeze of freedom.

What happens when you're, say, caught up in a dance at a party or deep in conversation with a friend? The focus on your “self,” which is in some sense completely dependent for its existence on that very focus, vanishes. And your awareness is on the mass movement of sweating bodies, the music, the energy in the room, or, in the case of a conversation, on the earnest eyes of your friend. Where are “you”?

I am so jealous of people who can lose themselves dancing! I can feel that there is some deep psychological need in me for the same thing. Nietzsche riffs on this a great deal, which is probably why it's been on my mind. His idea is that at the very core of Western civilization there's a deep need, which we've since lost sight of, for merrymaking, revelry, joy, dancing, and singing. Like Nietzsche, leading his solitary life writing in the Alps, I don't do much actual dancing...and that is probably for the best, for all parties concerned. But my theory is that playing Bach is one way I've found to fulfill that ancient Dionysian longing. Playing his music, lost in intense concentration over minutes of infinite time, really, *I am dancing*.



Reflections... Family Faith Formation

by Carla Miller, Director of Religious Education



What Do You Want for Christmas? (Hanukkah? Yule? Or any winter holiday, actually...)

We often ask children, “What do you want for Christmas?” Their answer is usually some hot new best-selling toy; but is that what children want most from this holiday season? What do you, and your family, truly want? Many of us want a lot less stress, and more happy, meaningful moments. These are not available on Amazon, or appearing in pop-up ads. They are readily available at no charge, but only through finding our own clarity. This requires setting aside all the preparation to reflect on what matters most.

The book *Unplug the Christmas Machine* by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli has been around awhile (16 years!) and is still one of the most-read guides for reducing the holiday stress and making this holiday season meaningful for us all; especially for parents and children.

Four things children want for Christmas, according to Robinson and Staeheli are:

1. **A relaxed and loving time with the family.** Children need relaxed attention. During the holidays, normal family routines are temporarily set aside for parties, shopping, and special events. It’s important to slow down and spend quality time with your kids.
2. **Realistic expectations about gifts.** Kids enjoy looking forward to gifts and then having their expectations met. The key is to manage their expectations. You might try, for example, to educate your children about advertising in an attempt to mitigate its effects.
3. **An evenly paced holiday season.** The commercial Christmas season starts months before December 25, when the first store displays go up, then things end with a bang on Christmas day. The authors suggest beginning the season late in the year. Get out the Christmas music on December 15, then put up the tree on the following weekend. Schedule some low-key family events during Christmas week. Stretch the season to New Year’s Day.
4. **Reliable family traditions.** When I think of what Christmas was like when we were children, it’s not the gifts that I remember. I recall the things we did as a family: cutting and decorating cookies, my favorite ornaments, the pageant and candlelight service at our little church, the cousins who came to visit. Your kids will remember the traditions, not the gifts.

Aren’t these what we *all* want? May you and your family enjoy your favorite family traditions, some relaxed family time, and get what you want most as you celebrate this holiday season!



WINTER HOLIDAYS

Christmas Eve Dedication: An Invitation to Families with Children

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

On Christmas Eve, at the 4:30 p.m. service, we will be having a Unitarian Universalist ceremony called “Dedication”. This ceremony is the means by which the parents dedicate themselves to the young child, the congregation dedicates itself to the family, and together we dedicate the child’s life to its unfolding in love and meaning. We choose Christmas Eve, the night of the birth of a child whose life changed the history of the world, because we believe that every child’s birth changes the world. In the words of 20th century religious educator Sophia Lyon Fahs: “Every night a child is born is a holy night – A time for singing, a time for wondering, a time for worshipping.”

Visit www.uuabookstore.org/Assets/PDFs/3559.pdf to learn more. Contact me at lopeebles@uucr.org if you would like your family to be included December 24.

(ArtsConnect continued from page 8)

About HALO

Harmony's African-American Legacy Organization, HALO, was founded by the first quartet of African-American singers to compete on the international contest stage of any of the major barbershop organizations. HALO seeks to lead a transformative movement of Community Music Therapy in which barbershop singing (and listening) serves as a metaphorical model by which we as a diverse people in one nation can learn to heal century-old wounds. Rooted in the African American heritage of barbershop, HALO is enthusiastic about connecting more people to the music and to the community. HALO loves harmony, hip-hop, AND barbershop!

About Direct Support for Immigrants

ArtsConnect is thrilled to support the work of [Direct Support for Immigrants!](#) DSI is a Takoma Park and Silver Spring-based non-profit organization that grew out of the Takoma Park Mobilization. They are all local volunteers who believe strongly in affirming values of inclusion and supporting immigrants no matter their origin or immigration status. Their mission is to assist immigrants to the United States by:

- Learning about challenges that immigrants and their families face, and identifying ways to support them in overcoming those challenges.
- Educating immigrants about the resources available to them and connecting them to these resources.
- Providing social, emotional, material, financial, and other types of support to immigrants facing serious challenges.
- Encouraging positive community interactions between immigrants and non-immigrants. Through these interactions working to transcend barriers of race, language, ethnicity, country of origin, and social and economic class, to develop stronger, more vibrant communities.
- Advocating for immigrants’ rights and needs in the local and broader community.

Our goal is to raise \$2000 to help support the work of DSI.

Please plan on attending this fantastic event! Invite your friends! Tell your work and school communities! You can pick up flyers at the Music & Arts table during Middle Hour. Let’s fill our Sanctuary to the brim and show up big for Racial & Immigration Justice!

More info: tinyurl.com/uucr-concert. Help us spread the word! www.facebook.com/events/3145114492227774/

Quest

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

December 4, 2019

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, 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