

WORSHIP SERVICES

February Theme: RESILIENCE

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

On the Front Lines of Resilience

Nelson Mandela wrote, “Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.” Resilience emerges often in times of institutional challenges. Worship will feature special guest, **Blake Dremann**, military officer and former president of SPART*A, a national LGBTQ advocacy organization focused on transgender military service. Mr. Dremann has been a beacon of resilience for thousands of LGBTQ service members and their families. Come and hear his story. Led by **Rev. Rebekah Savage**.

WildBerry Jam will sing, 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.



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February 7, 2020

Quest

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

Lifelong Spiritual Discovery Beloved Community A Just World

Volume LXIII, Number 6
February 7, 2020

Editor & Publisher:
Adrian L. H. Graham



In the Interim...

by the Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles

Happy February! What a month of activity, agitation, and activity – in the world, in our nation, and yes, here at UUCR. The Congregational Administrator search team announces their selection for that position, who will arrive to begin being trained by Donna Taylor, who is retiring in March. The Board will be appointing the Senior Minister Selection Team, who will discern who will be a candidate for that position and who will present that name to the congregation for its vote, this spring or next. Implementation plans will get underway to respond to the new Sunday morning schedule recommendations. And – oh, yes – you will begin hearing about how you can pledge your financial support to the next fiscal year in anticipation of the March 7 Fellowship Dinner and March 8 Canvass Sunday!

And with all that is going on, I am recommending that everyone take a month to breathe deeply. Our theme is “Resilience,” and a good way to stay resilient in the face of angst and pressures is to pause and take time to refill your spiritual well. Take a sabbatical from your to-do lists. Cancel unnecessary meetings and replace them with time talking with friends, going for walks, painting a picture, or reading poetry. Come to church – yes! – but come to sing, or to pray, or to have a caring conversation with the people you find here. Focus on life – yours and those around you. Join in the music and dancing here on February 15.

There is a lot to be done and changed and learned in this world and here at UUCR. The work will not go away if you take a little break from it. You will be more prepared and love the work more if you give yourself some joy, a chance to breathe, a deepening connection with yourself and your fellow travelers.

To paraphrase African American theologian Howard Thurman, “Don’t ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you more resilient, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who are more resilient.”

Quest deadline: Thursday, **February 20, 2020** at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on **March 4, 2020**.
Email to quest@uucr.org

Quest

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Rockville**
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Director of Music: Sarah Jebian
Director of Communications & Membership:
Adrian L. H. Graham
Church Administrator:
Donna Taylor (outgoing)
Congregation Administrator:
JeKaren Olaoya (incoming)
RE & Youth Assistant: Aiden Chernikoff
Pianist: Justin Furnia
Building Sexton: Justin Onyeador

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(Worship Services continued from page 1)

Sunday, February 16, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Resilience is Not Rigid

Much harm is done by people being too sure, unbending, “holier-than-thou.” How can we be true to ourselves and also develop a culture of possibilities, of open-heartedness, of flux and fluidity? To be able to improvise, and not insist on an old script for life? Theologically, our Unitarian Universalism is grounded in the notion that “revelation is on-going,” that we can always learn new truths. Can we find the courage to live into that way of being? **Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles** invites us into the questions.

Special music by **Laura Congdon**, handpan. **Justin Furnia** on piano.

First Fifteen—see above.

Sunday, February 23, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Maintaining Resilience at the End of Life

What is resilience and what factors help us to remain resilient when we face the end of life? These questions will be explored by **Dr. Laura Shay**, a hospice chaplain, as she shares her insights and experiences working in end-of-life care.

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

First Fifteen—see above.

March Theme: WISDOM

Sunday, March 1, 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Learning the Hard Way

To kick off the month of “Wisdom,” members of **UUCR’s High School Youth** lead worship and share their wisdom.

Special music by the Youth. **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.



ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP DINNER & CANVASS

UUCR Annual Fellowship Dinner — Saturday, March 7, 2020!

Sign Up to attend our Annual Fellowship Dinner. Saturday, March 7!

The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. with a social hour followed by dinner unique to each table. This all-congregation event is a wonderful chance to meet new UUCR members, catch up with old friends, share culinary gifts, and have a relaxing evening together. The Jr. and Senior High will have tables in the sanctuary. **Childcare will be provided for 5th graders and younger.**

Click here to sign up: [Annual Fellowship Dinner Attendance.](#)

If you would like to be a Table Host, please contact Emily Untermeyer now: fellowshipdinner@uucr.org



The 2020 Canvass—Everything You Need to Know

by John Dunbar, Canvass Team

Yes, it is coming up on that time of year to start thinking about the annual fundraising drive for the congregation known as the “Canvass.”

This will be quite a year for UUCR, as we select a new minister, how many Sunday services to hold, and face a pivotal, anxiety-producing national election where the stakes have never been higher. We need your support now more than ever as we face these changes and challenges. This year's theme, appropriately, is *Brave Journey, Safe Harbor*.

Our co-chairs for the Canvass, who deserve our thanks and praise, are **Beth Mellen Harrison** and **Karl Irikura**.

“UUCR is a warm and supportive community that helps keep me and my children grounded, while also challenging us to be our best selves,” notes Beth.

“My family’s lives have been changed by UUCR,” says Karl. *“I want UUCR to stay strong, to nourish and heal everyone who needs us.”*

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ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP DINNER & CANVASS

(Canvass continued from page 3)

Many of us at UUCR are relatively new and not familiar with the Canvass. Even those of us who have been here for a while may have some basic questions. In that spirit, in conjunction with our board of trustees, we provide some answers to some basic questions as we enter this critically important year. Karl, a Canvass veteran, and Bill Newhouse, another Canvass veteran, help us supply some answers:

Question: What is the Canvass?

Answer: The Canvass is our annual pledge drive, when we renew our commitments to support UUCR financially.

Q. What is the purpose?

A. It's the formal call to keep UUCR running!

Q. How long does it last?

A. It has to be finished in April so that the Board of Trustees can make budgeting decisions in time for next year.

Q. How does it work?

A. We ask everyone in the congregation to make a written pledge, which is a promise to contribute a specific amount of money to UUCR during the next fiscal year: July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Q. What is UUCR's financial condition?

A. For a few years, we have been running modest deficit budgets with the potential to withdraw from our reserves. Fortunately, preliminary reports show for the most recent year, we're finishing in the black, thanks to some careful spending and some generous, one-time gifts.

Q. What will we be spending our money on?

A. Most of our budget (> 70%) is for paying our terrific staff. Costs grow over time as new programs are needed, and as shrinking volunteer hours must be replaced by paid staff hours.

Q. How much should I pledge?

A. Last year there were 214 pledges. Last year's average pledge ended up just above \$2,600. My family's pledge last year was about half of our federal income tax.

Q. Can I just write a check?

A. The benefit of pledging is to make it possible to create a budget for next year. It's hard to create a budget if the congregational contribution (most of the "income" side of the budget) is unknown. We realize that family finances can change unexpectedly and expect to accommodate any setbacks or windfalls, and the finance committee has an estimate for such changes post pledge.

So as we embark on this challenging year, UUCR is here for you as it has been for the past 64 years. UUCR is truly a "safe harbor" as we embark on this "brave journey"—together.



CONGREGATION WORKS

New Staff Member!

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

Welcome to UUCR's New Congregation Administrator



We are thrilled to announce that following a thorough search, a new Congregation Administrator has been selected! Many thanks to the search team - Karen Pittleman, Dan Pierce, Martha Taylor, Cynthia Shires-Thurston, Ellen Rohan - who worked with Rev. Linda and Rev. Rebekah, narrowing down from 12 qualified applicants, through several layers of interviews. **We welcome JeKaren Olaoya**, who begins at UUCR February 17, and will work alongside current Administrator Donna Taylor to be oriented to the work.

JeKaren has over 12 years of experience in nonprofit leadership and management, working in a variety of capacities for well-rounded work experience including women's shelters, children's camps, and K-12 schools. In addition, JeKaren is an active member of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and served as a Team Lead of Team Sankofa, BLUU's working group 2018-2019. As a former Director of Religious Education (DRE), JeKaren has served congregations across the country assisting in interim transitions and growing volunteer bases. She holds a Master of Nonprofit Leadership and Management from Arizona State University, a Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Art and Sociology from Mercer University in Macon, GA, and certification in Conflict Resolution Management. A Georgia native, JeKaren has lived in multiple countries and states, and currently resides in Silver Spring after relocating from the San Francisco Bay Area with her dog Maysee Moon and her husband.

Where Have All the Boxwoods Gone?

by Irene Eckstrand, Grounds Committee

You very likely noticed that many of the plants around the UUCR buildings, such as the boxwoods in the courtyard and the roses in the circle drive garden, are dead or dying. Others, such as the azaleas between the lower parking lot and around buildings 2 and 3, are badly overgrown. Over the past several months, the UUCR landscaping group has been working on a plan to remediate and renew our gardens, and we want to let you know what to expect.

We identified four priority areas:

- the central courtyard,
- the circle garden in front of the sanctuary entrance,
- the courtyard beside the sanctuary, and
- the out-of-control shrubs between the parking lot and buildings 2 and 3.



We interviewed several contractors. With the Board's approval, we contracted with Eric Wenger, owner of Complete Plant Health Care, Inc.

In the next few months, you will see some big changes as Eric removes dead and dying plants. Say goodbye to the dead boxwoods and roses. You can also say goodbye to a few of the overgrown and overcrowded azaleas. Other plants will be pruned, some rather severely, to improve their long-term health and appearance.

It's going to look worse before it gets better, but please bear with us!

Starting in the spring, we will plant new shrubs and flowers. We have a commitment to using native plants as much as possible to create a beautiful, sustainable, and low-maintenance landscape around UUCR.

Thanks for your support,

The UUCR Landscaping Group (Irene Eckstrand, Barbara Harrison, Mary Lanigan, and Sue Hedges)

February 7, 2020

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SOCIAL JUSTICE

Immigration Presentation

by Gail Schmitt, Immigration Action Group



“UNDERSTANDING THE IMMIGRATION DEBATE”

Have questions about what’s happening now with immigration?

Sunday, February 16, 2020, 12:30 – 2:00 PM,

Founders Hall

The Immigration Action Group is hosting a presentation by George Clack, a spokesperson for the Howard County chapter of the Indivisible Action Team on Immigration. He will focus on such current issues as:

- How to deal with the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the US
- How to create effective border security
- What ICE (U.S. Customs Enforcement) is and how it operates
- What policy changes the Trump administration has made about undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees
- What “sanctuary” means and how this concept has been misunderstood
- Facts about immigrant employment, crime rates, economic benefits, and the taxes they pay

George Clack currently teaches literature and film at the Johns Hopkins Osher Program and Howard Community College and is former head of the U.S. State Department’s Publication Office.

A light lunch will be provided. ALL WELCOME – no charge. Sign up at the IAG Table or online at <https://clack-talk.eventbrite.com/>

Calling All Builders!

by Karen Pittleman

UUCR will be participating in [Rebuilding Together Montgomery County](#)’s 30th Anniversary **National Rebuilding Day on April 25, 2020**. National Rebuilding Day is a nationwide effort to improve the lives of low-income homeowners by rebuilding and renovating homes in local communities across the country. We hope to get *30 people from UUCR* to sign up for a day of community service, working on a home in Rockville or Gaithersburg. Our team will complete critical home repairs, energy efficiency upgrades and/or accessibility modifications which will ensure safe and independent living for our neighbors. Please email **Karen Pittleman** to get more information or to sign-up.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Racial Justice Opportunities at UUCR

by Marie Reed, Racial Justice Working Group

Coming to the Table (CTTT)

CTTT encourages deep, respectful conversation on race-related matters. We hope you will join our monthly gathering on the **first Monday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Sign up at the Racial Justice (RJ) table during Middle Hour on Sundays. For more information: racialjustice@uucr.org.



Common Read Book Discussions - *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 **Wednesdays, February 12, March 11, and April 1 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Sign up at the Racial Justice (RJ) table during Middle Hour on Sundays or [click here to register](#).

UULM-MD Presentation

by Jack Taylor, Social Justice Committee

There will be a presentation and Q&A **Sunday, February 9, during Middle Hour** in Room 52 for a discussion of the [Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland](#) (UULM-MD). The UULM-MD is a statewide advocacy network of Unitarian Universalists, working to educate, mobilize, and coordinate UU's on specific issues before the Maryland General Assembly. It works in coalition with established state and national organizations, such as the ACLU. **Jack Taylor** (of the Social Justice Committee) is a member of the UULM-MD Board. Issues the UULM MD support during the 2020 legislative session ([ending April 8](#)) include:

Immigration. Legislation on a Dream Act Extension extending in state tuition; Trust Act – prohibiting the stopping of an individual for suspected immigration violation.

Climate Change. Greenhouse Reduction Act, Just & Equitable Transition from Coal.

Death With Dignity. Similar to the Oregon Death With Dignity Act.

Economic Justice. Family Medical Leave Act.

Gun Violence. Outlaw 3-D Printed Guns, Outlaw Ghost Guns.

Health Care. Funding Mechanism for Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

Criminal Justice. Citations vs Arrest.

The UULM-MD website (www.uulmmd.org) is a great source for more detailed descriptions.



SHARING THE MINISTRY

Spotlight On...

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music

re·sil·ience

1. **The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.**
2. **The ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.**

February is Black History Month and our worship theme is “Resilience” so it feels appropriate (and overdue) to lift up the lives and work of some composers of color that changed the landscape of classical music—and whose names you probably don’t know. I chose to focus on classical music, specifically, because even today, artists of color struggle to find a space in the classical music world.

Full disclosure: I have borrowed the following from classicalfm.com who compiled and published the info (please do visit the site to learn more about them). I’ve only included a handful of the artists that were profiled but I urge you to listen to the works of these wonderful artists and commit yourselves to learning more about them. All of them. They deserve to be known. I’ve included links to help you along.

Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges (1745 – 1799)

Dubbed ‘le Mozart noir’ (‘Black Mozart’), the Chevalier de Saint-Georges is remembered as the first classical composer of African origins. Learn more [here](#).

Florence Price (1887 – 1953)

Florence Price was the first African-American woman to have her music performed by a major symphony orchestra – in 1933. Hear some of her songs [here](#) and [here](#), and the Concerto in One Movement [here](#).

William Grant Still (1895 – 1978)

Still’s career is a story of firsts: dubbed ‘The Dean’ of African-American composers, he was the first African American to conduct a major American symphony orchestra, the first to have an opera produced by a major opera company (the New York City Opera), the first to have a symphony (his First Symphony) performed by a leading orchestra, and the first to have an opera performed on national TV. Still composed more than 150 works in his lifetime, including five symphonies and eight operas, the most famous of which is his [‘Afro-American’ Symphony No. 1](#). He also found time to moonlight as an oboist, conductor and jazz arranger.

George Walker (1922 – 2018)

Walker was the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music. He received it for his work *Lilacs* in 1996. Walker died on 23 August 2018, and his most famous and performed work remains his [Lyric for Strings](#) (1946), a beautifully moving work for string orchestra.

Perhaps those of you who are classical music aficionados are already familiar with these composers. If so, I hope you’ve enjoyed visiting with old friends. For those of you who are like me (I know Mozart, Beethoven, Handel, Bach, Tchaikovsky and the like), I hope you will challenge yourselves as I have to get to know these artists. As I learn more about them and begin to dig into their music, I am humbled by the gifts they left us and I’m mindful of the frustration they must have felt in watching their white-skinned contemporaries succeed even as the harsh boot of racism held them down. Talk about Resilience. It is difficult enough to make art but having your art dismissed because of the amount of melanin in your skin...I really have no words.

With limitless gratitude to these and the many other nameless artists whose work influences us even today,

Sarah

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Valentine's Day Dance!

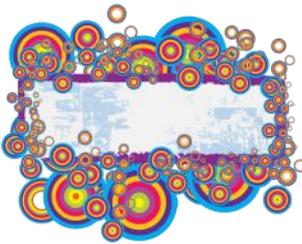
by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music



Don't miss UUCR's Annual Ethier Music Fund Benefit Event on **Saturday, February 15** from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Dance your socks off to the swinging sounds of Bonfire of the Mannakeys and shake your tail feathers with a kickin' DJ after the band plays! Sweets, snacks, and beverages provided by members of UUCR's music program. All ages welcome. More info: <https://tinyurl.com/tvr48du>. All donations benefit the UUCR Music Program.

ArtsConnect Community Art Workshop with Rosana Azar

by Sarah Jebian, Director of Music



Draw the Circle Wide at this upcoming workshop with local artist [Rosana Azar](#). Join us for a creative day, where you'll be able to share your story and be enriched by others as well—creating our own weaving circle and finding common threads. The program will be conducted in English and Spanish. Don't miss it! Everybody is welcome! **Sunday, February 23** from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Founders Hall. Potluck lunch at 12:30 p.m. Supervised play area provided for young children. Open to the public. Donations welcome to benefit the *ArtsConnect* program.

Thinking of You

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

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

We send loving thoughts to the family of UUCR member **Edd Doerr** who died in hospice care on Thursday, February 6 following a recent hospitalization.

We send loving thoughts to **André Enceneat** and his family, as he undergoes treatment for cancer.

And we send loving thoughts to **Alonzo Smith** and his family, following a long hospital stay, as he moves to rehab and treatment.

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



FAITH FORMATION

New2UU (and NotSoNew, Too...)

by Adrian Graham, Director of Communications & Membership

Our **Spring New2UU series** will be offered in four Thursday night sessions from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (March 5, March 12, March 26, and April 2). This class is a great way to get your toes wet and learn about our faith tradition broadly speaking, as well as our particular expression of it here at UUCR. Those who are interested in joining the congregation as members will be invited to do so after completing these three sessions, and will be formally welcomed into membership on Sunday, April 5.



For those longtime UUCR folks who are NotSoNew and may have been contemplating a shift from *congregant* to *member*, this is also a great opportunity for you to deepen your engagement with your chosen faith community, in particular as we approach significant milestones in the life of the congregation where congregational votes will be called for. There is a three-month period after joining as a member before you become eligible to vote in congregational meetings. Interested in discussing further? Let's chat! As always, I can be reached at agraham@uucr.org.



Resilience is learning
from your past rather
than resenting it.

Rev. Scott Tayler



FAITH FORMATION

Raising Resilient Children through Religious Community

by Carla Miller, Director of Religious Education

This month's theme, resilience, is vital to a happy and healthy life. Parents seek to encourage and develop resilience in their children. The faith community can also play a very important role in raising resilient kids!

What is resilience?

Think of a bouncing ball. When a bouncing ball hits the ground, it bounces back. That's what resilience means — the ability to bounce back from disappointments, mistakes, and tough times, and to cope well with life's stresses. This does not mean that we drop kids to build their resilience! Instead, we can be the loving hands that hold them, release them when the time is right, and catch them again every time.

Congregational life and our positive theological perspective can support a child's ability to cope in many ways. Some of the key traits of resilient kids I've found listed in blogs on the topic are self-confidence, emotional awareness, social competence, optimism, and the ability to reach out for help. Children build these skills especially powerfully in settings beyond the family. In congregational life, children have opportunities to develop these character traits and to develop the positive faith which will carry them through tough times.

Self-confidence: At UUCR kids can take a risk, succeed and be appreciated. Whether lighting the chalice, speaking in the pageant, or singing in the choir, our young people move through some stage fright to say, "I can do it."

Emotional awareness: We light candles in worship and we drop stones into water during Chalice Chapel as we recognize our joys and concerns; accepting the wide range of human emotions, the celebrations and the challenges of life as parts of one whole.

Social awareness/competence: Kids grow socially through interactions in class and in coffee hour, with friends old and new, and with people of all ages. A retiree helping a child to open a cocoa packet at coffee hour makes a positive social connection that might be discouraged or avoided in another setting. RE classes encourage listening to diverse points of view—an ability that will help children navigate stressful social interactions with greater equilibrium and empathy.

Optimism: Our UU faith is an optimistic framework of hope and motivation to continue despite obstacles. We believe that we have inherent worth, that our voices should be heard, that there is hope for building a more peaceful world, and that our actions can make a difference. UU faith provides a sense of purpose, of a life of truth and meaning, with our own valuable place in the web of life.

The ability to reach out to others: Our Whole Lives Human Sexuality classes ask children to identify their "safe" people. The people our children name are often the OWL teachers themselves and other members of our congregation. In youth group, young people learn to speak openly, to trust and support one another through the stresses and challenges of their lives. And when families are going through serious illness or grief, our pastoral community holds their hands.

Resilience doesn't mean "toughing it out" or "going it alone." The most resilient people are those who live in healthy and trusting relationships with others. Belonging to a congregation adds a whole team of people to whom our children can reach out in trust.

Participating in a faith community can build children's resilience, especially when we set this intention and build nurturing, and strengthening, relationships here for our children. Let's help to assure that our children and youth, and every one of us for that matter, can bounce back!

Carla

February 7, 2020

Quest — 11

Quest

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February 7, 2020

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