



UUCRV NEWS



Published by and for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley
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From the President

THE POWER OF GOOD VENTILATION

Starting on October 10th, our Congregation will be doing a crowdfunding campaign on the UUA's www.Faithify.com platform to raise \$3,500 to pay for two new exhaust fans on the roof of the church. The money, donated by UUs across the country will be used to match the \$3,000 we've already received from the Live Oaks UU Church's Endowment fund for the fans. We need everyone—members and friends—to make a gift to this campaign in whatever amount you can afford.



Crowdfunding uses the power of many small donations to support worthy projects. A \$5 gift is just as welcomed as a \$500 gift. We need everyone to participate to reach our goal!

Research has shown that good ventilation is one of the most important factors to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in buildings. The old school building that we use as our church relied on exhaust fans to provide ventilation. The fans are more than 60 years old, and one of them no longer works...the other needs to be upgraded. With good ventilation and air filters that have been put in all the rooms, we will be able to continue in-person services during the cold winter months and to open our building for use by community groups who we support, like Yellow Brick Road. This makes good ventilation a social justice issue!

The new exhaust fans have been ordered and will be installed soon, but we need your help to pay the bill. The new water-proof lining on the roof that was installed this summer has depleted our building fund, so the money we raise from the Faithify crowdfunding campaign is critically needed for this project.

You will receive an email when the campaign is launched telling you how to give to the project.

To learn more about how it works, go to www.Faithify.com. Call or email me if you have questions about how you can give to this project or want to discuss a pledge.

My contacts are: 815-222-4414 or Jpaulson1047@gmail.com.

Jerry Paulson



MARLENE'S MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

Thirty years! I am astonished and amazed that I have been an ordained minister for 30 years. That I have done anything for 30 years! I'm also thrilled to be celebrating this milestone with this congregation, the last congregation I will serve. It makes a deeply meaningful bookend to my career in ministry. I am blessed.

I've been thinking about how much has changed since that day 30 years ago. When I entered ministry there were no cell phones, let alone smart phones, or tablets. In seminary I think I had one of the very first lap top computers. And there was no internet or worldwide a web!

So much has changed. in the last two years we have added layer upon layer of what ministers are expected to do and be knowledgeable about. We now need to be able to produce videos, understand camera angles and sound boards and create online worship and Zoom meetings. And so much more. There are times my head spins at all the changes. One thing though has never changed and that is you, the people. We answer this call because we care about you, the people, and creating strong congregations. You are why we do this. We may do that differently now than we did 30 years ago but that central part has not changed. This reading by Rev. Gordon McKeeman was one of the readings at my ordination 30 years on October 4th. It still speaks everything to me about what ministry is.

*Ministry is
a quality of relationship between and among
human beings
that beckons forth hidden possibilities;
inviting people into deeper, more constant
more reverent relationship with the world
and with one another;
carrying forward a long heritage of hope and
liberation that has dignified and informed
the human venture over many centuries;
being present with, to, and for others
in their terrors and torments
in their grief, misery and pain;
knowing that those feelings
are our feelings, too;
celebrating the triumphs of the human spirit,
the miracles of birth and life,
the wonders of devotion and sacrifice;
witnessing to life-enhancing values;
speaking truth to power;
speaking for human dignity and equity,
for compassion and aspiration;*

*believing in life in the presence of death;
struggling for human responsibility
against principalities and structures
that ignore humaneness and become
instruments of death.
It is all these and much, much more than all of
them, present in
the wordless,
the unspoken,
the ineffable.
It is speaking and living the highest we know
and living with the knowledge that it is
never as deep, or as wide
or as high as we wish.
Whenever there is a meeting
that summons us to our better selves, wherever
our lostness is found,
our fragments are united,
our wounds begin healing,
our spines stiffen and
our muscles grow strong for the task,
there is ministry.*

Blessings and thanks to you all for sharing in this ministry with me.

Blessings, Rev. Marlene

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

OCTOBER 2

“MAY THE CIRCLE BE BROKEN”

REV. DR. KATE WALKER (BIO BELOW)



Ministry is about living a radical love and engaging in hospitality. Radical love and hospitality is not just a practice, it's a world view that for some, may require a paradigm shift. If we're going to ministry together as UU's in a new world view, we need to accept some things need to be broken before the healing can begin.

Following the service there will be a potluck picnic to celebrate Rev. Marlene's 30th Ordination Anniversary. Look for more info in the newsletter.

OCTOBER 9

“THE FESTIVAL OF BOOTHS”

REV. DR. MARLENE WALKER

Come learn about the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, also called the Festival of Booths. This is a harvest festival and an important holiday in the Jewish tradition. And. We just might have a Sukkah (booth) built on our grounds to help us celebrate.



OCTOBER 16

“ADAPTIVE MINISTRY” WITH CAMERON YOUNG LAY LEADER: DONNA BEAUMONT



When one strand of the web is broken, the entire web is prone to collapse. When we in UU spaces speak of our 7th Principle, belief in the interdependent web of all existence, we are not merely speaking in metaphors. Our existences are intricately woven with all life. When violence, oppression, and marginalization occur elsewhere in the world we are consciously and unconsciously bound to it, and vice versa. (Sermon of the Month from the MidAmerica UUA)

OCTOBER 23

“JOY AND JUSTICE, AMEN”

JULICA HERMANN DE LA FUENTE

Are you as exhausted as I am? Is the list of injustices and opportunities for liberation too long to list in your Heart too? Let us consider together what it takes to make liberation and transformation sustainable — and yes, even joyful. We need joy more than ever. See Julica's bio below



OCTOBER 30

“DAY OF THE DEAD”

LAY LEADER: JODELL GABRIEL

Reframing our western European “bury” our losses with the joys and sorrows of loving and losing due to our inescapable mortality. Weaving celebration, commemoration and sorrow into our human experience of death.

BIOS OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Julica Hermann de la Fuente is a coach, trainer and facilitator for liberation, transformation and justice, and is currently completing her path toward ordination in Unitarian Universalism.

Born and raised in Mexico City, she first became committed to social justice when she came to the United States for college. Since then, Julica has been an anti-racism/anti-oppression educator and trainer in a variety of capacities over the past two and a half decades.

In addition to a Lay Community Ministry degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School, she also holds an MSW from the University of Michigan and is certified as a master life coach. When not on shift for the resistance, you will find Julica playing with fabric, making costumes for her two teens Sawyer and Aliana, looking for more excuses to frost fancy cakes, and reading optimistic sci-fi and fantasy possibilities of a just and equitable universe.

BIOS (CON'T)

The Rev. Dr. Kate R. Walker, (she/her/hers) is minister of the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh since August of 2021. Previously she served the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria, Virginia, and the Meadville Unitarian Universalist Church, in Meadville, Pennsylvania. She was raised Unitarian Universalist and is a double UU preacher's kid. She lives in Pittsburgh with her husband Mark and two deeply loved Springer Spaniels. Kate celebrates her love of the outdoors with by hiking, skiing, sailing, biking and staring at the sky while contemplating nothing at all.

In addition to her ministerial work, Kate's involvement with Unitarian Universalism includes being an Advocate for complainants to the UUA's Safe Congregations Office, Scribe of the Ministerial Conference at Berry Street, editor of "The Through Line: 200 Years of the Berry Street Essays," co-author of "Facing Death with Life" adult curriculum, and serving as a Good Officer along with a long list of other roles she has taken on. For more information: <https://www.revkatewalker.com/>

But the role dearest to Rev. Marlene is that Kate just happens to be her daughter. She will probably be the only person at Rev. Marlene's anniversary celebration who was present when Marlene was ordained at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria VA 30 years ago.

UUCRV ACTIVITIES

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

OCTOBER 22 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M. AT THE CHURCH AND ON ZOOM

We are excited to have Julica Hermann de la Fuente as our facilitator for this year's Annual Leadership retreat *Liberation and Transformation in UU Congregations*

Over the past 5 years, Unitarian Universalists have once again been taking a closer look at the ways that cultural practices in our denomination still reflect historical and institutional patterns of racism and white supremacy culture. This interactive workshop will provide an opportunity to feel and think together about racism in our denomination and our current opportunities and challenges.

Together, we will look at the frameworks that we are currently engaging in Unitarian Universalism to close the gap between the values we espouse and the values we practice with regard to anti-racism. We will consider some anti-racism tools, and how they can help us in this journey. Join us for an authentic exploration of the work we need to do to continue to bend the arc toward justice in our congregations and in our communities.

THE TOUCHSTONES DISCUSSION GROUP OCTOBER 19 @ 10:30 AM ON ZOOM

Touchstones group meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 10:30. Please contact Connie if you plan on attending or would like more information.

Connie Matusiak cminthegarden@gmail.com 608-361-9669

The Touchstone theme for October is: *Awe*.

https://www.touchstonesproject.com/files/ugd/552cc1_4beb5e26a6304579ae4845ac0e26374a.pdf

COFFEE CHAT RETURNS OCTOBER 4 AND 18 AT 11 AM

Coffee Chats are the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Last year we had a great time learning about and discussing UU history and theology. This year we will be doing a modified version of *Building Our Own Theology*, a wonderful UUA program. Join us this month to learn more.

UUCRV ACTIVITIES FOR JUSTICE AND EQUITY



UUCRV's SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

...in conjunction with UUANI (Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois) has agreed to participate in this postcard writing campaign. Volunteers are needed to write and address postcards for *Reclaim Our Vote*.

Stay tuned for dates on when we will meet at the church to write postcards. Or contact Wendy make arrangements to pick up materials and write cards at home. UUANI has provided the postcards, postage stamps and preprinted labels with information about the targeted area's voting registration location.

Here is a link for a short video about the

campaign. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JigeIvHgXU>

Feel free to contact Wendy via phone 708-337-9640 or email me at sing2all@live.com if you have any questions or concerns. All help is appreciated, Wendy

LET'S BEAT 2021 RECORD

This year's 36th Rockford Walk will have reached the \$1,000,000 mark if we raise \$45,000. It can be achieved with your help.

In 2021 UUCRV raised \$750. Our goal this year is \$800 Please make your contribution through our church or online at CropHungerWalk.org/rockil Thank you.



*May the abundance of the season be celebrated
as the wheel of time
turns towards the new year.*

2021-2022 OFFICERS

President Jerry Paulson 815-222-4414
Vice-President Marty Gabriel 779-200-6122
Secretary Jodell Gabriel 779-200-6122
Treasurer Paulette Lucas 815-601-3225
At Large Wendy Edgington 708-337-9640

Board meeting and committee meeting schedules are noted in the calendar. Members are welcome at all UUCRV committee meetings.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ROCK VALLEY

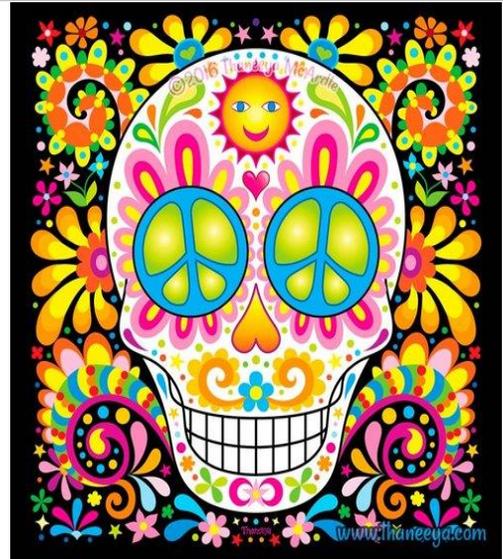
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uucrockvalley@gmail.com www.uucrv.org

Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker

Email: revmwalker@mac.com

Phone: 970-640-5444



COMMITTEES & CHAIRS (OR CO-CHAIRS)

Finance: Cher Zimmerman

Faith Formations: Susan Busker

Membership: Wendy Edgington & Diana Kevari

Building & Grounds: Denny Broderick & Brock Heckle

Committee on Ministry: This chair is still open

Technology Advancements: Denny Broderick

Music: Wendy Edgington, Denny Broderick & Amy

Phelps

TASK GROUPS

Spruce up: Paulette Lucas

Reopening: Rev. Marlene Walker & Wendy Edgington

Newsletter: Editor Jodell Gabriel; Calendar Susan Busker

Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) began with the Aztec tradition which dates back over 3000 years. When Spanish conquistadors later came to Latin America, it was then adopted as a Catholic tradition.

Day of the Dead is meant to honor and remember the lives of those who have passed. More important, it's a cheerful way of coexisting with loss.

From October 31 to November 2, Mexicans prepare and create *ofrendas* (altars) to celebrate the lives of deceased relatives. Each altar has items the person enjoyed throughout their life. *Pan de muerto*, an orange zest sweetbread is served.

Families gather up *cempasuchil* flowers (known as the flower of the dead) to decorate their homes and help guide spirits from their graves to their *ofrendas*. By *Ivanna Martinez*

Note: Completed reading the newsletter? The UUCRV newsletter editor would like to hear from you. Email: jodesophia2@gmail.com Subject: "I read it."



I revere this Halloween Witch and hold her sacred.

I honor her courage and listen to her warnings

of the dark side of humanity.

Each year I shed tears of respect.

FROM THE GREEN WITCH SHE RETURNS

UUCRV October 2022 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.” – Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941; a Bengali polymath who worked as a poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, painter, and social reformer)</p>						1
<p>2 Multiplatform including on ZOOM (link in email) 10:30 am Worship: <i>Celebrating Ministry</i> Rev. Kate Walker</p>	3	<p>4 11-12:30 Coffee Chat: Building Your Own Theology, Rev. Walker</p>	5	6	<p>7 10-11 am Finance Committee Zoom meeting</p>	8
<p>9 Multiplatform including on ZOOM (link in email) 10:30 am Worship: <i>Festival of Booths</i> Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker</p>	<p>10 Indigenous Peoples Day</p>	<p>11 10am-12noon Faith Formation Committee Zoom Meeting</p>	12	<p>13 <i>Wendy Edgington's birthday</i></p>	<p>14 1:00 pm Bd Zoom Mtg This date might be subject to change.</p>	15
<p>16 Multiplatform including on ZOOM (link in email) 10:30 am Worship: <i>Adaptive Ministry with Cameron Young</i> Lay Leader: Donna Beaumont</p>	17	<p>18 11-12:30 Coffee Chat: Building Your Own Theology, Rev. Walker</p>	<p>19 10:30-12 Touchstones Small Group Discussion</p>	<p>20 <i>Please send in dates and articles for the November Newsletter!</i></p>	21	<p>22 <i>Leadership Retreat 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Open to all UUCRV members</i></p>
<p>23 Multiplatform including on ZOOM (link in email) 10:30 am Worship: <i>Joy & Justice, Amen</i> Rev. Julica Herman del la Fuente</p>	24	25	26	27	<p>28 <i>Jerry Paulson's birthday</i></p>	29
<p>30 Multiplatform including on ZOOM (link in email) 10:30 am Worship: <i>Day of the Dead</i> Lay Leader: Jodell Gabriel</p>	<p>31 <i>Samhain</i></p>	<p><i>House Bill 8932 was introduced on March 4, 2021 to amend the Illinois States Commemorative Dates Act: “Provides that the second Monday in October of each year (currently, the last Monday in September) shall be a holiday to be known as Indigenous Peoples Day to be observed throughout the State (currently, not a holiday). Removes Columbus Day as a holiday and a commemorative date.” The bill has 10 Co-Sponsors in the House and Actions have been taken, but as of yet, no Votes.</i></p>				

GOOD NEWS

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WILL RESUME SERVING COFFEE – NO SNACKS - AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINNING SUNDAY, OCT. 9