

UUCRV NEWS

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Visit us at www.uucrv.org



December 2017

Monthly Schedule

12/3 – 9 - 10:00 *Worship Committee* meeting

10:30 – 11:30 **“Latinos – Contributions and Challenges”** *Guest Speaker Ruth Kolpack* “...As immigrants in our country throughout history have faced difficulties when settling in their new country, it is also true for Latinos who have arrived here the last several decades. Each new ethnic group contributes to the fabric of our society, making us richer in so many ways...”

12:30 – 2:30 **Workshop on “Right Relations”** led by Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker. (Bring a sack lunch if you need more than the ‘Coffee Hour’ treats to get you through.)

12/8 – 11:00 *Membership Committee* meeting

12/10 - Misha Sanders Guest Speaker!

12/13 – 10:30 – 11:30 *“Mindfulness of Breath Meditation”* Led by Susan Busker

12/17 – *“Hope”* from Touchstones – Worship Committee to lead
12 - 2:00 *Board Meeting*

12/20 – 10 - 11:30 Second meeting of *“The Small Group Discussion”* led by Connie Matusiak

12/21 - *“Solstice Service”* “Please plan to join us [on] the shortest day of the year, to celebrate the return of the sun and longer hours of daylight. We will honor the season with song, dance and meditations. Following the service, we will share refreshments including hot spiced wassail and solstice cookies...”

12/24 – Celebrating Christmas incorporating both Christian and Secular Carols and Stories. Led by Amy Phelps, Denny Broderick and Wendy Edgington

12/31 – *“On the Brink of a New Year: Letting Go, Beginning and Hope”* “We will have a ritual for the New Year as you consider those things we wish not to take with us into 2018 and share your hopes, dreams, wishes and goals for the coming year.” **Jerry Paulson**

REST EASY

Our thanks to Glenn [Wallace] for giving us a boost in the porcelain potty department. Glenn has installed two new hi-rise toilets (one in each of the bathrooms) along with grab bars to assist rising from the throne.

In case you didn't notice, the woody growth in the juniper hedge has been cleared out thanks to the heroic efforts of Brock [Heckel]. He even applied stump killer in the hopes that this would lessen re-growth. A big thank-you to Brock!

Committee Information

Membership Committee – The Committee will be meeting on Friday, December 8, at 11:00. We will meet at UUCRV to discuss upcoming events. Would you like to part of this committee? We encourage you to attend this meeting! Dianna Kevari

Worship Committee – I believe we have some interesting and enlightening services scheduled for December. We are always looking for new ideas and speakers. If you have a talk you would like to give – or someone you would like to refer - please contact any of the Worship Committee Members with your ideas/suggestions.

We look forward to having an active Pastor twice a month and so appreciate Misha Sanders' spiritual guidance once a month. We are very blessed!
Wendy

Green Corner

We hybrid car owners smugly congratulate ourselves on being environmentally correct. We may boast about astounding miles per gallon figures. But a little car made by Citroen of France may be the mpg champ of all.

The car, the Citroen 2CV (pretty catchy name) was conceived in 1939, but World War II delayed production until 1948. France was in bad shape after the war. Few people could afford a car. Farmers still depended on horses. Citroen's idea was to make a car so inexpensive that it would be affordable to almost everyone. It actually cost half as much as a Volkswagen (the peoples' car).

Well, what does one get for such a low price? Not much. The 2CV was powered by a two cylinder engine that developed nine horsepower (compare that with the new Dodge Demon with 840 horsepower). However, it got 80 mpg (take that, Prius!). There were no crank down windows. The glass was hinged horizontally so the top half could fold down. There was a speedometer. There was no fuel gauge - a dipstick was used to determine fuel amounts. It had one headlight and one taillight. Originally its seats were like hammocks, suspended on each side of the car. However, it did seat four adults.

The original specifications stated that the car should be able to carry four people plus a 50 kg. barrel of farm goods to market. The ride was to be such that the customer would be able to transport eggs across a freshly plowed field without breaking them.

While this car might not generate much excitement today, it had a 50 year production run, with over nine million sold worldwide.

If this has piqued your curiosity about the 2CV, you can actually see one in a very popular Netflix series called "The Midsomer Murders." Chief Inspector Barnaby's daughter, Callie, drives one in the show. Ray Herzer

Birthdays

5 – Kathy Dierstein

14 – David Shair

18 – Lee Johnson

“A whole bunch of wonderful flavors of church are out there.”

Steve Willis

Throughout the years I have visited places of worship of different denominations including Methodist, Lutheran, Catholic, Jewish, and Unitarian Universalist. Upon reflection I realize that none of them were small churches and my visits were often just a one-time occurrence. I found that the Unitarian Universalist faith was the one that resonated in terms of beliefs, but a large UU church did not call to me. It wasn't until I found this small UU church that I found a match with my beliefs *and* my values.

I hadn't thought before about the difference between the values of large and small churches, but I can now clearly see where my values align. I became aware of this idea of differing values when reading Steve Willis's book, Imagining the Small Church, Celebrating a Simpler Path (Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2012).

Some of the comparisons Willis makes between center culture/large church values and peripheral culture/small church values are summarized in this table:

Center Culture, Large Church Values	Peripheral Culture, Small-Church Values
Mobility	Place
Innovation	Dependability
Individual	Community
Numbers	People
Organization	Fellowship
Mind-centered	Heart-centered
Present with eye to the future	Present informed by the past
Young families	Intergenerational relationships

This doesn't mean to say that one has good values and one has bad values. It is more a matter of what values connect with you. However, there is evidence that our center culture doesn't understand or prize the peripheral culture.

Willis says that "Many small churches live in a peripheral culture. These churches are very aware of the cultural differences between the center and the periphery. They have experienced the times that the central culture has negatively used its power and influence on them, trying to make these peripheral places look and act more like central-culture places...Dominant culture demands uniformity and therefore does not understand the importance of peripheral culture. Both centers and peripheries are necessary and important for human civilization...These two cultures are inherently interrelated. They depend on each other for their health and well-being. Yet as [Wendell] Berry writes, 'the tendency of the center is to be ignorant of the periphery'." (pp. 4-5)

I share Willis's wish and prayer - "I wish and pray for a time in the church that values and grows from the insight, experience, resources, and stories of all our diverse and varied ministries." For now, I am blessed to have found my wonderful flavor of church!
Susan Busker UUCRV President



Please join us December 2nd!

We are participating in the **Rockton Christmas Walk** again this year. It has become a tradition for our congregation to join in this community event. Our participation engages us with our neighbors (some members have found us through this event!) and serves as a fundraiser to support the work of this church. In addition, the Fair Trade sale we hold provides social justice awareness regarding fair wages and treatment for farmers and artisans around the world.

This year we are including the following:

- ★ A **Fair Trade** sale including items from serrv (www.serrv.org) and Equal Exchange (www.equalexchange.coop). This not only supports artisans and small farmers from around the world in earning fair wages for their work, but many products are made from recycled materials and many of the foods are organically grown. Foods in the sale include coffee, tea, hot chocolate, chocolates, spices, soups, olive oil, cornbread and scone mixes. Household items for sale include teapots, trivets, kitchen towels and lanterns. Personal items include soaps, scarves, jewelry and bags.
- 📖 A sale of gently used **Books** in a variety of genres: historical fiction, science fiction, action, adventure, romance, mystery, suspense, health, self-help, science, nature, gardening, travel, geography, history, art, music, crafts, hobbies, cooking, sports, parenting, education, poetry, holidays, humor, biographies, religion, spirituality, children, youth.
- ✦ A sale of gently used **Christmas Items** including decorations, ornaments and household items.
- 🔔 A **Bake Sale** including cookies from some of our star bakers! Buy yourself a treat to sustain you as you shop – or buy enough for your whole family to add to your holiday celebration!

***Stop by and help support UUCRV
and our mission to “create community” and “seek justice!”***



We are a covenantal faith...



On November 12th, fifteen UUCRV members participated in a workshop on covenant led by Rev. Marlene Walker. We spent the first part of the workshop sharing stories about our personal experiences in UUCRV and examining what we as a congregation value. The list of values we created included:

Radical Hospitality	Caring	Leadership	Connection
Generosity	Friendly	Genuine	Authentic
Intimacy	Justice	Humor	Green
Diversity	Respect	Non Judgment	Cooperative
Giving	Learning	Beauty	Safe
Spiritual	Joy	Trying	Appreciative
Possibility	Social Justice	Creative	Dreams/Vision

We then proceeded to write a series of covenants to ourselves, to other members, to our leadership, to our minister, to the UU community, and to the wider community.

The second part of this workshop, on how to maintain and restore Right Relations, will be held on December 3rd from 12:30-2:30 pm. Please plan to join us!

Following this, we will plan how to share with the entire congregation our Covenant and process for Right Relations. This is an important step in maintaining the health of our congregation and growing this Beloved Community.
 – Susan Busker



“Covenant is the silk that joins Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations, communities, and individuals together in a web of interconnections. The practice of promising to walk together is the precious core of our creedless faith.” – Covenant is Foundational to Congregational Polity (uua.org)

A Call for Justice and Equity

UUCRV participated in the **Beloit Together: A Community Solidarity Gathering** on November 19th. The event was planned to bring focus to issues of equity and justice in the Beloit community.

It began with an original song written specially for this gathering by Susan Picking and performed by her along with some local youth. The audience was included in singing the chorus “Let’s come together, oh, yeah!, Gotta come together, right now!”



Following were moving presentations on the topics of poverty, race issues, Latino issues, and LGBTQ issues. Videos of these presentations can be seen on the Beloit Together Facebook page.

UUCRV had a display at the EXPO which featured local organizations working for justice and equity. Information was available for participants to learn about how Unitarian Universalist Principles promote justice and equity, and how our congregation can be a welcoming place for all people, including the LGBTQ+ community.



We will continue to look for ways we can support this effort in our area to support our UU Principle of **“Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.”**

Interfaith = relating to activities involving members of different religions

A small group of women from our church joined an interfaith service held on November 3rd at Faith United Methodist Church in Freeport. This was organized as part of World Community Day by Church Women United. It began in 1943 following the war as a time set aside for shared ecumenical study and prayer on the theme of peace.

We participated in prayers and readings from different faiths including Islam, Buddhism and Judaism as well as Christianity. Rev. Armida Alexander, minister from the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Stockton, provided the reflection and used storytelling as a way of sharing her message about peace.

Please plan to join us on December 21st, the shortest day of the year, to celebrate the return of the sun and longer hours of daylight. We will honor the season with song, dance and meditations. Following the service, we will share refreshments including hot spiced wassail and solstice cookies.

December 21
7:00-8:00 pm – Service
Fellowship time to follow



Help welcome back the sun!



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