

December Schedule

Dec. 6 - Sara Goodman: Longing for An Imagined Future - We begin to explore the monthly theme of Expectation by taking a look at some of the benefits and pitfalls of having expectations

Dec. 13 - "*Light One Candle*": The UUCRV Chorus will brighten the darkness with music of the Advent season. In this time of fear all around us we will light one candle, light one flame against bigotry and hate in the world. Beth Ingle and the children will perform as part of the service.

Dec. 20 - Sara Goodman: Without Expectations- When was the last time you ate at a restaurant without reading a review or went to a movie without seeing the preview? What would it be like to go through life with limited expectations?

6:30 p.m. - Solstice Service: Maria Varela and others will lead a Solstice service as we move into the darkest time of winter. Meet at the church for a magical time with music and dance.

Dec. 27 - "Expectation": Jerry Paulson will help us explore how our expectations shape our lives as we prepare for the coming year. Our expectations frame our view of what is to come, but that frame is distorted by preoccupations with where we've been. If we look to the future instead we create expectations that push us forward into our lives. Come prepared to share your vision for your self in 2016.

All Services start at 10:30 a.m.
329 School Street, Rockton, IL. (Hwy.75 across from
old Wagon Wheel site)
unless otherwise noted.

Sara Goodman, Consulting Minister

December 2015, the last month of a year of expectation, of fear, of loss, and darkness and waiting for the light to return.

This has been my year, but not all of my year. It has been a year of ups and downs for all of us. This month, as we consider expectation, lets also give thanks for the unexpected ups and downs of 2015, for they have brought us here together.

So, what does it mean to be a people of expectation? It means waiting at the window for the snow to start falling. It means making plans and working to make them happen. It means making room for hope in our lives. It means seeing something beyond the mind numbing reality of a present moment, into the heart racing dream of what a future could hold.

What does it mean to be a people of expectation? It means

to be a people of disappointed expectations, to be a people of tempered hope, of broken plans. it means we take our days as they come, knowing that the laundry, the dishes, all the little details of life will never stop being our reality. The small people looking at us for comfort, the snow covered streets, and the sweet sound of a loved one calling our name will also continue to be our reality.

What does it mean to be a people of expectation? It means that we are hopeful, helpful, beautifully fragile and fallible human beings.

*FINANCE COMMITTEE meets at the church on
Wed.,
December 9, at 1 p.m.
THE GREEN CORNER*

Christmas is coming and it's time to begin thinking of those special gifts for loved ones. This season, why not give the gift of light. No more are we limited to dull, boring 60 watt incandescent bulbs. Now we can go with halogen, LED or CFL. What to do (or watt to do). So many choices - so confusing.

Let's start with incandescent. This is the least efficient form of lighting, with a lot of energy given off in the form of heat. Initially the least expensive, but the operating costs are the highest and life expectancy is 1/10th that of LCD or CFL bulbs. Some people prefer

the light quality of incandescent as compared to LCD. Be aware that standard incandescents are no longer being made -only specialty bulbs like appliance lights. So if you can't do without them, now is the time to stock up.

Halogen bulbs are basically incandescent, with a different gas in the bulb that makes them more energy efficient. They are expensive, get very hot, and do not have a pleasing light quality.

Now to CFL. Upside is they are relatively inexpensive and are getting cheaper all the time. Also, they now come in various light choices, such as warm or daylight. Much more energy efficient - the average home would save about \$125 per year switching from incandescent to all CFL or LED. Downside is the quality varies, and some burn out relatively quickly. The standard CFL cannot be used with dimmer switches and they should not be used in an inverted position as that limits life expectancy. Because they contain mercury, they should not be thrown out in the trash, but taken to a recycling facility (either a hardware store or a hazardous materials collection center).

Finally, the best choice of all - the LED light. They are the most energy-efficient, last the longest, can be used with dimmer switches, can be used inverted and contain no mercury. They look much like the familiar incandescent bulb, and give the same warm light (unlike the LED flashlight you may have. Price is also coming down dramatically. Menards has had them on sale for as little as \$2 for a 60 watt equivalent bulb.

So now that you are armed with knowledge about the perfect gift, rush out to your nearest home improvement store and stock up. Be aware though that these stores do not do gift-wrapping. Happy

aware, though, that these stores do not do gift-wrapping. Happy shopping. Ray Herzer

YOU ARE INVITED
UUCRV
FIRST ANNUAL UGLY SWEATER
PARTY
AND POTLUCK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
5 PM - 7 PM

MUSIC, FOOD & FUN!
UUCRV GARDEN ROOM

SIGN UP SHEET OUTSIDE THE
SANCTUARY

THE WELCOMING CONGREGATION
TASK FORCE

The Task Force is hoping to sponsor a Saturday afternoon matinee movie screening in February - "The American Experience Stonewall Uprising". The June 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Greenwich Village (NYC) is widely considered a

turning point in the modern gay civil rights movement in the United States and around the world.

Happy December Birthday

5 - Kathy Dierstein

10- Matthias Varela

14 - Dave Shair

18 - Lee Johnson

19 - Nancy Esterl

26- Rob Clark

***Below is a picture of the
congregation
on Sunday, Nov. 22, for the
Intergenerational Service.***

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The theme for December is cooperation and service, and this will be emphasized in our lessons. Children will continue to do service projects to earn chips to help fund our Heifer project.

The teaching schedule for December is as follows:

Dec. 6 - Beth

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Dec. 13 - Alicia "The Winter Solstice"

Dec. 20 - Judy "David"

Dec. 27 - Pam

Ray Herzer, Chairperson

Dec. 5th - 9:00 - 4:00 - CHRISTMAS WALK & THE JUST GOODS SHOPS

There will be products from Just Goods, plus gently used holiday items, and tasty treats.

Stop by and do some shopping.

If you have time, volunteer to help, especially during the clean-up time.

Officers of the Congregation's Board of Trustees:

President	Denny Broderick	608-289-1432
Vice-President	Susan Busker	815-624-2833
Secretary	Nina Herzer	815-624-2283
Treasurer	Cher Zimmerman	608-365-2343

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Rock Valley
P.O. Box 256, Rockton, IL 61072.

To get info in the UUCRV Newsletter
email uucrockvalley@gmail.com or
jamede.418@gmail.com

