



# UUCRV NEWS



Published by and for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley  
329 School St., Mailing address: P.O. Box 256, Rockton, IL 61072  
Phone: 815-624-4094 Visit us at [www.uucrv.org](http://www.uucrv.org)

## August, 2019

### Monthly Schedule

8/4 – Rev. Allen Harden

8/10 – 9:30 – Laughter Yoga

8/11 – Susan Busker will be providing the Touchstones service for August on the topic of **Prayer and Meditation**. She will be sharing from a message written by the Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill titled "To Whom It May Concern: A Sermon on Prayer." Rev. O'Neill says "I would suggest to you today that prayer has a powerful and potentially significant place in the life of religious liberals." Come explore with us what place prayer and meditation play in your life!

8/18 – Rev. Allen Harden

8/25 - Rev. Michael O. Simmons – Beloit Society of Friends Meeting

### **Minister's Musings, August 2019**

One reliable aspect of life is that our regular plans and flow of activity are often interrupted by the unexpected. It doesn't happen often enough that we can count on it, and it is never predictable. No, the unexpected is special precisely because it is never expected, and never factors into our planning. The church closing for snowstorms and furnace failures are good examples. These disrupted our Sunday Worship services several times this past winter. And a number of us negotiated through a personal 'unexpected' in recent months – with an accident, illness, family problem, or whatever. Life reminds us that we are only partially in charge, that while we try to make the rules, circumstances often dictate our short-term priorities.

It was my turn to experience such an event. I had a very full weekend planned for Rock Valley, with multiple events scheduled each day from Wednesday through Sunday. And then this Tuesday, while trying to improve my health with a workout, I had a momentary mental lapse while dismounting from a treadmill. I ended up on the floor and one of my legs forgot how to work. After a day in the ER, it seems likely that I ruptured a quadriceps tendon. There are many silver linings here – I feel little discomfort, my health is not threatened, and life continues around me as well as before. But I am on crutches, my knee in a brace, and I am now trying to cope with the frustrating slow pace of follow-up medical care.

But mostly it interferes with my ability to do my work for you, and with you, because at least for now, I cannot drive. I am starting to figure out workarounds, but I had to cancel several things for this week already. What can you say, LIFE HAPPENS, and if this is the worst I see for a while then we are lucky. It is the disruptions that help remind us what really matters and how fortunate we are, and how surrounded by love and support we are. My family and Chicago people are taking great care of me, and UUCRV people are helping cover for my absence.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT. As most of you know, my position at UUCRV is a half-time ministry job. I have now served you for 18 months, and we have extended the contract for the remainder of this year. I just agreed in principle (nothing is signed yet) to serve as Minister to the UU Fellowship of DeKalb on a quarter-time basis, also for one year. This is the congregation where I was an intern, so I know them fairly well. Although each congregation is unique and has a special character, they are in a similar position to UUCRV in the sense of trying to figure out how to engage professional ministry with limited resources. Maybe we will find ways to work toward shared solutions to these problems. I am excited to rejoin with them, and I will strive to make sure that this has no detrimental effect on my work with UUCRV. (Although, you might have to forgive me if I intone the wrong mission statement on occasion.)

A SIMPLER ANNOUNCEMENT. During worship on Sundays, we aspire to keep conversation in the hallways and outdoors, and to hold the Sanctuary as a quiet and reflective place for worship. To encourage this, we will play music before the service starts (maybe calling it prelude, maybe just pre-service music) and we really would like all who enter to refrain from talking and to be respectful of this part of our shared worship. I realize it is exciting to see one another each week, but let us see if we can keep the “jibber-jabber” out in the hallways. Quiet acknowledgements of each other, hugs, and friendly touches are always welcomed and encouraged.

I hope you are enjoying summer. It took a while to get going, but it has been mostly glorious so far!!  
Allen

### **Time Change for Laughter Yoga**

Our leaders, Jodell and Marty Gabriel, have agreed to try a different time slot for Laughter Yoga. We will meet at 9:30 on Saturday, August 10th. Hopefully, more people will join us because they can be done by 10:30 and move forward with their plans for the day. Come laugh and exercise with friends. No mats required. We sit or stand depending on the laughter exercise. Seriously, laughter is very beneficial to our health! Ray

### **Committee Information**

*Worship:* We are recruiting Worship Associates and speakers. Please speak to a committee member for more information. Wendy Edgington

*Membership:* Thank you all UUCRV for all the support you have given for the Caritas organization. This year our church is sponsoring Caritas for something each month. I had a meeting with the Caritas Director, Max Dobson, and he gave some suggestions for things needed for each month. There is a calendar that lists the things for each month. Not every church member has to give something every month, if you wish to pick a certain month or so and focus on that great too. Every thing we donate is helping someone in our community. Caritas does have clients who live in South Beloit, Rockton, Roscoe as well.

On August 10 there is a celebration celebrating Caritas 45th. anniversary and there is an all day event going on sponsored by the Moose Club in Beloit, right next door to Caritas actually and I have a sign

up sheet at church for those who may want to take a tour of Caritas to see what the operation is all about. I have put 1:00 on Saturday August 10th., we can meet at the church then and car pool to Caritas for a tour and then you are welcome to have lunch next door at the Moose Club and all those proceeds are going to Caritas. Quite the event. I know some of our members do not know what Caritas is all about and this would be a good way to see the operation. They have done a lot of remodeling in the last year or so, and also Ray Herzer is the one who originally started organized and set up the gardens there for clients to use and grow there own vegetables. All the vegetables we grow at the church garden are also donated to Caritas.

We did our yearly campaign in June again this year and collected 80 bottles of hair care products and several travel size products as well for Caritas shelves. It was greatly appreciated.

In July we have collected 35 packages of feminine care products and I know these will be greatly appreciated. Max informed me that these items are particularly hard for Caritas to obtain for their clients.

The month of August we are donating school supplies to Merrill grade school, grades 4K-4th. grade. Susan Busker is making up lists for us to use when shopping. I will ask the principal this week what items they really fall short on.

Thank you all for the contributions that you give to Caritas. I know that every little thing we can do is going to help the clients that come to Caritas in trying to make their lives better.



***UUANJ Social Justice Leadership Corps:*** UUANI is piloting a program statewide to develop congregational leadership teams to work together to develop our congregations' capacity for action toward justice, beloved community and healthy planet. UUACRV's team consists of Allen Harden, Wendy Edgington, and Susan Busker. They will start training in August and continue for a number of months. Watch for more information from the team!

## *Birthdays*

3 – Judy Stevens

11 – Melinda Stogsdill

14 – Connie Matusiak

19 – Cher Zimmerman

30 – Milli Fleer

30 – Jan Henningsen

***Environmental Justice Action:*** In July, two flowering trees were added to our church property to attract and support pollinators, and to take carbon dioxide out of the air!



Flowering pear tree

Flowering cherry tree

*Thanks to Pete Busker for supplying and planting the trees!*

- Susan Busker

### Rock County Pridefest – August 24, 2019



UUCRV will be participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Rock County Pridefest at Telfer Park in Beloit on August 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have a table with information about our Welcoming Congregation as well as activities for all ages. Volunteers will be needed throughout the day! As we know, this event can serve as an important Entry Point for the LGBTQ+ community in finding a spiritual home in Unitarian Universalism.

### Social Justice Work for CARITAS Community Resource Center in Beloit

As you know, UUCRV has been a long-time supporter of CARITAS (a community resource center in Beloit including a food pantry and diaper bank) with donations of food, personal care products, and money for holiday meals and gifts for children. At the April Board meeting, it was decided to organize our involvement at CARITAS into a yearly calendar which expands our support and encourages participation by the entire congregation. ***Thanks to Dianna Kevari for meeting with the director at Caritas to confirm the types of donations that are needed throughout the year!*** Below is the calendar of donations we will be supporting throughout the year - reminders will be provided monthly.

- Susan

Busker



<p><b>January</b></p> <p>Donations of men’s personal care items <i>Leader: Membership Committee</i></p>	<p><b>February</b></p> <p>Donations of food items for homeless teens over the Spring Break <i>Leader: Susan Busker</i></p>	<p><b>March</b></p> <p>Donations of baby wipes and baby soaps <i>Leader: Membership Committee</i></p>
<p><b>April</b></p> <p>Donations of diapers – sizes 5 &amp; 6 only <i>Leader: Membership Committee</i></p>	<p><b>May</b></p> <p>Donations of canned fruits <i>Leader: Membership Committee</i></p>	<p><b>June</b></p> <p>Donations of hair care products <i>Leader: Dianna Kevari</i></p>
<p><b>July</b></p> <p>Donations of feminine personal hygiene products <i>Leader: Dianna Kevari</i></p>	<p><b>August</b></p> <p>Donations of school supplies for Merrill School pantry <i>Leader: Dianna Kevari</i></p>	<p><b>September</b></p> <p>Donations of fresh produce from the garden <i>Leader: Ray Herzer</i></p>

<b>October</b> \$ donations for Thanksgiving dinner <i>Leader: Membership Committee</i>	<b>November</b> Donations of food items for homeless teens over the Christmas break <i>Leader: Susan Busker</i>	<b>December</b> \$ donations for Christmas dinners <i>Leader: Membership Committee</i>

## Help us help our neighbors!

### UU Service at Highview in the Woodlands

**Thanks to Nina Herzer for helping provide the July 17<sup>th</sup> service at Highview Woodlands!** (She filled in for Wendy who was recovering from taking a yard!)



in the  
tumble in her

In addition to our usual readings and hymns, we shared about the miracle metamorphosis of the monarch butterfly, from egg to caterpillar to pupa to using a poster showing the life cycle, and sharing stories about our experiences with the Monarch. The residents seemed very interested and asked questions about this process. As usual, they expressed appreciation for our visit, though I am always sure to thank them for allowing us to visit – it truly is a pleasure!

of the  
butterfly,

If you are interested in helping provide this service in our community, just let Wendy or me know. It is important to have a small group of members who are willing to rotate in providing this opportunity to the residents at Highview as this allows members to take off those months that they are not available to participate. All materials are prepared and provided, including CDs of hymns and a CD player for times when Wendy is not available to play the organ. Consider joining us for this special service!

- Susan Busker

**UUCRV**

**August Shopping List**

*Can you please share some school items for students at Merrill School?  
(Of course, you don't have to get all the items on the list – just share what you can!)*

- Colored pencils (24 ct., pre-sharpened)
- Crayons (24 ct.)
- Erasers (large, pink, rectangular)
- Glue bottle

- Highlighters (different colors)
- Loose-leaf paper (wide-ruled)
- Markers (Basic Colors, Washable)
- Pencils (#2, 20-24 ct. pre-sharpened)
- Pens (blue, black, red; non-click kind)
- Pocket folders (with and without prongs)
- Rulers (12", with inches and cm)
- Spiral notebooks (70 pages)
- Plastic supply box or pencil pouch
- EXPO Dry-Erase markers (low odor)
- Ziploc bags (quart, gallon)
- Paper plates (white, for art projects)
- Baby wipes
- Kleenex
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**2019-20 Officers**

President	Wendy Edgington	815-865-5364
Vice-President	Paulette Lucas	815-601-3225
Secretary	Denny Broderick	608-751-0630
Treasurer	Nina Herzer	815-624-2283



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley**  
**329 School Street**  
**Rockton, IL 61072**

**815-624-4094**  
[uucrockvalley@gmail.com](mailto:uucrockvalley@gmail.com)  
[www.uucrv.org](http://www.uucrv.org)

**Contact the Minister, Rev. Allen Harden:**  
**773-288-2394**  
[uucrvminister@gmail.com](mailto:uucrvminister@gmail.com)

