

UUCRV NEWS

Published by and for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley
P.O. Box 256, Rockton, IL, 61072 Phone number: 1-815-624-4094
Visit us at www.uucrv.org



March, 2017

Monthly Schedule

March services all begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley, 329 School Street, Rockton, IL 61079. Child care provided. We welcome visitors, and invite you to coffee hour afterwards for snacks and chat.

March 5 – Rev. Sara Goodman – Feminist Ethic of Risk: In honor of the upcoming International Women’s Day and the “Day Without A Woman” protests, we will consider UU philosopher Sharon Welsh’s “Towards a Feminist Ethic of Risk” in which she asks: “How does a movement persist in the face of partial victories and continued defeats?” **12 Noon** – Worship meeting.

March 9 – 1 p.m. – Spirit Group meets at church.

March 12 – Tammy DeGarmo will be our speaker. She is the Executive Director of the 16:49 Project, which serves the hundreds of homeless youth in Rock county, Wisconsin. 16:49 refers to the hours and minutes from the end of one school day to the beginning of the next, when unaccompanied youth often find themselves without anyone to turn to. Learn how the schools, churches and other charitable organizations are working together to serve these youth.

March 19 – Rev. Sara Goodman – The Heresy of Living Life: What do a Trip Tik, a map of a Pulmonary System, and two divergent roads have in common? The people who created them lived life on their own terms. **12:00 Noon**- Board meeting.

March 26 - Ed Cope - “Presence of the Sublime”. Ed is a Naturalist with the Natural Land Institute and will weave the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson into a celebration of Nature, Spring, and the sublime beauty of the Interdependent web of life.



We are standing on a precipice, will you decide to leap?

If you're like me it will take a while to get up the courage. When I have stood on the top of a high rock looking into the deep water below, I've had to stop and breathe; imagine the best possible outcome, think some, and breathe some more.

I have been struggling to figure out how to write an article for our newsletter that talks about risk, our theme for the month, without going on a political rant. Perhaps you are also struggling to figure out how to go about your daily business without speaking up about the political state of our nation. Maybe you are standing in line at the grocery store and have to engage the person in front of you wearing a pink hat, or on the other side of the spectrum, a red hat. Have you taken that risk?

Have you been wearing your safety pin, and gotten a nod from someone else who's wearing one? Have you had to be the safe person for anyone yet? Have you thought through the risks? I know for me, it's been a real challenge to get out of the house and join the movements in the streets. I'm just not willing to risk Jamie's safety yet. I may never be ready, but it may be time anyway.

Because it feels like soon we will need to risk our discomfort, risk our privileged status, and maybe even our safety to protect those that need protecting. We know that as Unitarian Universalists we have a long history of risking for the greater good. Can we live up to the example of our forebears?

We are standing at a precipice of ease or risk, can we find a way to step off?

Maybe this poem by Janet Rand will help:

Risk

**To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out for another is to risk involvement.
To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self.
To place ideas and dreams before a crowd is to risk being called naive.
To love is to risk not being loved in return.
To live is to risk dying.
To hope is to risk despair.
To try is to risk failure.**

**But risk must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.
The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing,
is nothing, and becomes nothing.
They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they
cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love, live.
Chained by their certitude, they are slaves; they have forfeited their freedom.
Only a person who risks is truly free.**

UUCRV CARE AND CONCERN – The purpose of Care and Concern is to assist UUCRV in the ministry to one another. Care and Concern is part of the Membership Committee. A care request needs to be something that is possible for UUCRV members to do—like providing food, rides to medical appointments, running errands, visiting members who are house bound, in the hospital or rehab, etc.

If you or another UUCRV member needs help from UUCRV Care and Concern, please contact Wendy Edgington (815-865-5364) or Dianna Kevari (608-365-2343). Wendy and Dianna send cards to members as needed. Please contact them if you know one of our members is ill, has lost a loved one, or is experiencing a difficult time. They would rather hear the news twice than not at all. Remember that Wendy and Dianna are assisting our church in its ministry to one another.

Green Corner

It was about 10 years ago that CFL (compact fluorescent lights) began to appear in home improvement stores. Traditionalists raised a hullabaloo that the government was going to outlaw incandescent bulbs (they didn't) and that CFL bulbs raised a health threat (much exaggerated) because they contained mercury. In truth, the early CFL bulbs did have problems. The light was judged to be too harsh, and their life expectancy was often not what it was promised to be. But as time went on, improvements were made and most people began switching to CFLs. Now CFLs face an even greater challenge – the LED (light emitting diode).

Like early CFLs. They had birthing pains – light too harsh, light too weak for lamps. But they've come a long way, baby. A trip to a home improvement store will show LED lights encroaching on space formerly devoted to incandescents and CFLs.

The ceiling fixture in our kitchen was a four-foot-long fluorescent. Two bulbs are burned out and the remaining two are flickering. I can no longer work off a ladder, and so we were going to hire someone to change the bulbs. I suggested that since we were going to pay someone to do this, we should look at new fixtures to see what was available. Much to my delight, there were flat panel LED fixtures – only one inch thick. And even better, they had a light output that would equal seven 60 watt incandescent bulbs while using only 47 watts of power. And they would last 50,000 hours – way past our expiration date.

Now we had to calculate in the Nina factor. It couldn't be too harsh, too white, too unattractive. The light is up! The light is on, and we have liftoff. Alleluia!

Ray

SPIRIT MEETING – The Spirit Group will meet on Thurs., March 9th, at 1 p.m. to discuss “What Does it Mean to be a Community of Risk?”

FUN FURNACE FACTS

Some members have expressed an interest in how our church heating system functions. A primer follows:

Most of us have a gas forced air furnace in our homes. Too cold? Dial up the thermostat and immediately warmed air is pushed through ducts to all rooms throughout the house. In mere minutes, you will feel the embrace of heated air.

Not so at church. We have a big pot of water (the boiler). If we want to heat up the church, that big pot of water must be heated. Then the heated water is pushed by pumps throughout a network of radiators. There are no fans to blow air over these radiators so raising the temperature takes hours, not minutes. There is nothing wrong with the system – that's just how it works.

Because it takes many hours to raise the heat, the thermostats must be raised several hours ahead of time. Normally, when we are not using the building, the thermostats are dialed down. Before Sunday (and depending on how big the differential between the indoor and outdoor temperature is) I usually go over on Saturday to turn up the thermostats in the rooms we will be using. It is not an exact science, so sometimes it is either warmer or colder than we wish. It is just the idiosyncrasies of the system.

We have a yearly boiler and valve inspection. According to that inspection, our furnace operates at 80% efficiency, which is very good. Our furnace repair expenses come from the peripherals (gas valves, circulating pumps, thermostats). Some years we get by without any repairs or replacements, and some years we don't. Repairs and replacements can't be predicted.

From when we took over the church, we have decreased utility bills be about 35%. I think we are doing very well in managing our utility costs.

Ray

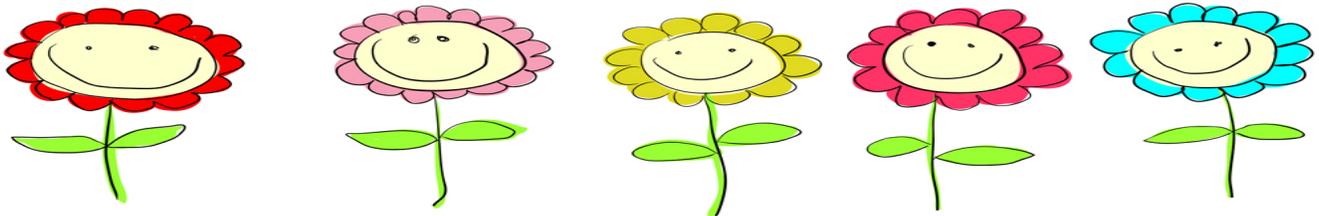
SUNDAY MORNING KIDS

During the month of March, the Religious Education class will learn about our UU Principle #6 which is to pursue *“the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all”*. It is a timely discussion as we share how our children, church and our world can better work for these three goals. Differences do not have to divide a community, they can broaden our vision and enhance life.

Camp information was given to families who might want to send their soon to be 7th graders and older kids to camp in July.

We are hoping to ask members of the congregation to begin thinking about their ability to engage their teaching skills in the 2017-2018 RE Sunday Morning Kids class. As you know, being a part of a teaching team is important in our church. I am committing myself to a second year of program development and Alicia Janski has also committed herself to teaching. But it will take more of us to keep this good thing going. We have class 10:30-11:30 each Sunday, September 10, 2017 through June 24, 2018. Lest you think this is early planning, it really will be here before you know it and plans need to be framed up. Contact Judy Petree at justpetree@gmail.com or see me in church and we can take time to talk about this opportunity. *Stay curious.*

Judy Petree and the RE Committee



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Nina Herzer – 3/12

Hannah Drew – 3-16

Ray Herzer – 3/19



Officers for 2016 - 17

President	Denny Broderick	608-289-1432
Vice-President	Susan Busker	815-624-2833
Secretary	Paulette Lucas	815-601-3225
Treasurer	Cher Zimmerman	608-365-2343



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