



# UUCRV NEWS



Published by and for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley  
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 Phone: 815-624-4094 Visit us at [www.uucrv.org](http://www.uucrv.org)

## September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:30 am Worship: <u>Monarch Butterflies</u> Nygren Wetlands 3190 W Rockton Rd ----- 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm Worship Committee ----- <i>Tricia Graham's Birthday</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 am Finance Committee ----- <i>Diane Busker's            Birthday</i> ----- <i>Denny Broderick's            Birthday</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 1-3 pm Board Meeting	<b>7</b> Small Congregations Alliance meeting, Elkhorn, WI ----- <i>Gloria Shafer's            Birthday</i>
<b>8</b> 10:30 am Worship: <u>Books in My Life –</u> Connie Matusiak & Judy Pickle ----- <i>Linda Brefeld's Birthday</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Laughter Yoga ----- 9:30-11:30 am UUANI Leadership Training
<b>15</b> 10:30 am Worship: <u>Global Climate Strike</u> Rev. Allen Harden	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:30 am – Touchstones Small Group: Covenant ----- 3:00 pm - UUCRV Service at Highview in the Woodlands	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Climate Strike 12:00 noon Janesville	<b>21</b> Please send in articles for the October Newsletter!
<b>22</b> 10:30 am Worship: ----- Mark Maxstead ----- 3:00-5:00 pm Interfaith March for Peace & Justice	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Marla Wallace's            Birthday</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>Phil            Dierstein's            Birthday</i>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:30 am Worship: <u>Project 16:49</u>	<b>30</b>	<i>This month our donation to Caritas Food Pantry is produce from our garden. Ask Ray if you can help with harvesting or delivering!</i>				



## Minister's Musings

This weekend, you will once again have the opportunity to enjoy spending our annual summer church time at the Carl and Myrna Nygren Wetland Preserve. I am sorry to miss this event – experiencing natural surroundings is high up on my list of ways I like to worship, alone or with others. Nygren Preserve is a blessing to all of us, and very close to the hearts of many in our congregation. A number of us had a hand, in some way, in its development and its maintenance – we feel invested. And as much as we appreciate this complex mixing of ecosystems for its own sake, we also feel some special pride of place in Nygren. Even if it is just because we know Jerry.

We spend our lives searching for, and finding, things and places where we feel like stakeholders, where we feel a special attachment, and we feel pride of place. For one of us, it is a set of nets to capture migrating birds for scientific study. For another, it is a special room at the local grade school where foodstuffs are distributed to needy families every Thursday. Some others are discovering this in a local nursing home, where they offer a liberal religious service once a month. We each manage to find small slices of the world that help to sustain us, fulfill us, and feed our sense of who we are.

As a congregation, we are searching for a few new initiatives, initiatives that we hope can serve to feed our souls at the same time as they make positive and real contributions to the world around us. We have decided to focus our immediate attention on the area of environment and climate change. This month marks a great time to attend to climate urgency. A Global Climate Strike is being planned for September 20, the Friday before a major UN Climate Summit begins for the week of September 23. The keynote for the UN Summit is the inspirational Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, who sailed across the Atlantic to address the UN because she will not accept the carbon cost of flying. Our church service on Sept 15 will focus on the global climate crisis, the Global Climate Strike, and the UN Summit.

Our efforts will be on a smaller scale than some of those we see around us, but I hope we can craft ways to engage in the climate fight that help us feel that we belong there, and that make real inroads in the communities where we live.

### Services

September 15 Global Climate Strike – How can we get this thing moving?

September 29 Words We Use to Define Us

I can think of many words we use often as we announce who we are. We are “welcoming”, we believe in the “inherent worth and dignity of all persons”, we are “open to different beliefs”, we “stand with love”. Do we really mean all of these things (and many others I could add to the list)? Let's discuss. Reverend Allen Harden

## Committee News

*Worship* – The committee welcomes two new members – Gloria Shafer and Marla Wallace! Welcome aboard!

## Birthdays

1 – Tricia Graham  
8 – Linda Brefeld

2 – Kara Becker  
25 – Marla Wallace

4 – Diane Busker & Denny Broderick  
27 – Phil Dierstein

7 – Gloria Shafer



## Sale, Sale, Sale!!!

UUCRV is having a sale, sale, sale on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 9-3. Our sale, sale, sale is threefold: garage sale items, books, and bake sale. The bake sale will be managed by Dianna Kevari with more information to follow. The garage sale portion is managed by Wendy, Paulette and Denny. We are looking for household items and décor, garden and lawn items, non-upholstered furniture, lamps, artwork, linens and drapery, kitchen ware, working electronics, etc. **No clothing and upholstered furniture, please.**

Like good UUs, we have joyfully collected enough books to supply several public libraries, so *please save anymore books for a future sale.*

Also, please save your Christmas items for the Rockton Christmas Walk, the first weekend in December.

Some of you have been kind enough to volunteer setting up for the sale (September 30-October 4) or to work at the sale. A signup sheet will be available closer to those dates. (Remember, we know where you live;)

With much appreciation, Paulette Lucas, Wendy Edgington, Denny Broderick

## Looking for a Dorm Refrigerator

If you've been in our fellowship room for coffee and treats, you probably noticed the attractive black stand and the black microwave. Thanks to Paulette, Denny and Judy for giving these items to UUCRV. Now we would like to add a dorm refrigerator large enough to hold our juice bottles. Before we buy one, we're asking if anyone has one that is not being used and is willing to give it to the church. Please email or call Nina. ([herz57@frontier.com](mailto:herz57@frontier.com) or 815-624-2283)

## Rock County PrideFest – August 24, 2019

UUCRV participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Rock County PrideFest at Telfer Park in on August 24<sup>th</sup>. We had a table with information about our Welcoming Congregation as well as activities for all ages, including making rainbow bead and coloring signs using rainbow crayons. As we know, this event serves as an important Entry Point for the LGBTQ+ community in finding a spiritual home in Unitarian Universalism. Visitors to our table talked with us about what it means to be a Welcoming Congregation, and picked up brochures about our church and about Unitarian Universalism. We welcomed many young people to our table and had great conversations with them – one even said how proud he was that there was a church that accepted all people!



Beloit pins,



**Thanks to the following members and friends who helped with this event:**

*Nina Herzer, Ray Herzer, Tricia Graham, Vesta, Mariah, Judy Stevens, Cher Zimmerman, Dianna Kevari, Sue Petty, Paulette Lucas, & Denny Broderick!*

- Susan Busker

## Thank you, Lawn Mowers!

Thanks to the members who are taking care of our lawn this summer with mowing and trimming – the wet spring and summer certainly increased your work and it is appreciated!

This gardener has a special request – when you are mowing please spray clippings away from the gardens and fire pit area so that they don't filled with debris and weed seeds which increases my work. Better yet, if set the mower to the mulching setting, it will finely cut the grass and leaves become fertilizer for the grass – just a thought! for your consideration! – Susan Busker



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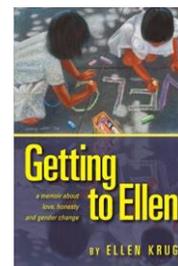
## “Gray Area Thinking®” with Ellie Krug



A month ago, UUCRV was contacted by Ellie Krug about the possibility of providing a training at our church on July 31<sup>st</sup> on “Gray Area Thinking®: How to Welcome and Accept Diverse Humans.” Ellen (Ellie) Krug is the founder of Human Inspiration Works, LLC and provides trainings around the country to challenge black and white thinking about people who may seem “different” from “us.” Ellie draws from her experience as a transgender woman to help participants understand the experience of “otherness.” The training was active and dynamic, and Ellie’s passion for helping people develop skills in “Gray Area Thinking®” was clearly evident. She said she believes that most people (98-99%) want to do the right thing, but that we need “A Toolset for How to Exercise Our Empathetic Hearts,” which she shares in her training.

Ellie has also authored a book titled Getting to Ellen. Several participants the book that night. They said they couldn't put it down once they started Henningsen has suggested scheduling a Book Discussion once other people chance to read it. You can find it available on Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/Getting-Ellen-Memoir-Honesty-Gender/dp/0988698900> and at Barnes & <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/getting-to-ellen-ellen-krug/1114479407> if you are interested in own copy.



purchased reading! Jan have had a

Noble getting your

Ellie was providing a training for a company in Beloit the next day and offered training for us for free since she was in the area. We took up a free-will offering to share with her, but she turned it back as a donation to the church – another sign of her passion for teaching others about empathy and compassion! - Susan Busker

to do this



**UUANJ Social Justice Leadership Corps:** The Unitarian Universalist Action Network of Illinois 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. UUCRV's team consists of Allen Harden, Wendy Edgington, and Susan Busker. The first training was provided in August by Rev. Scott Aaseng. We started by thinking about “What moves us?”, and then “How can our congregations move?”, and finally “How do we keep moving?” The training was very thought-provoking, with follow-up assignments to further our learning. Part of one of the readings Rev. Aaseng shared was:

*We envision a world where humans think ahead and consider impact on future generations*

***Because their lives depend on it.***

*We envision a world where respect for the earth is as important as respect for oneself and one's community*

***Because our lives depend on it.***

*We do these things because they matter*

***Because all our lives depend on it.***

(excerpted from *Because Our Lives Depend on It* by Sunshine J. Wolfe, Wendy Bartel, Becky Johnson, Neal Anderson, Cile Beatty)

We will be having follow-up conversations and sessions with Rev. Aaseng and will keep you informed about what we learn.



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

This month our donation to CARITAS is from our Food Pantry Garden located on our property. Ray Herzer has headed up this project from its inception many years ago. The garden has supplied hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to our neighbors through those years, including tomatoes, green beans, peppers, and sweet potatoes. A few years back, Ray was considering how to make the planting and harvesting of the garden an easier task and found out from CARITAS that onions were one type of produce that their clients would appreciate. After that Ray converted most of the garden to onions with a row or two for beets and greens. ***To keep the garden going as a whole-church project, we need some additional members to come forward to help***, including planting, weeding and harvesting. Let Ray know if you are willing to support this hands-on Social Justice work to help our neighbors with the basic human right of food. - Susan Busker ***Won't you help our neighbors?***



### Caritas Open House

A big "Thank You" to Dianna Kevari for organizing our visit to Caritas in Beloit, WI.

Max Dodson (Executive Director) gave us a tour of the facility and an in-depth explanation of the services they offer.

***Environmental Justice Action:*** At their August meeting, the Board agreed to apply to the National Wildlife Federation to become certified as a National Wildlife Habitat. In order to become certified, we needed to confirm that we have certain elements in place, including:

**FOOD** (3 types required): seeds, nectar, foliage/twigs, sap, pollen, suet, bird feeder, hummingbird feeder, nuts (acorns)

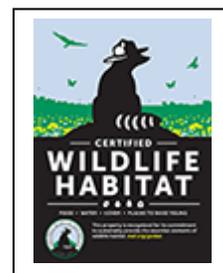
**WATER** (1 source required): birdbath, shallow tray, butterfly puddling dish

**COVER** (2 places required): evergreens, dense shrubs

**PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG** (2 places required): mature trees, nesting box, dead trees, dense shrubs, host plants for caterpillars (milkweed, parsley)

**SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES** (1 or more from two of the three categories):

- Soil and Water Conservation: limit water use, collect rain water, reduce erosion (rock cover), use mulch
- Controlling Exotic Species: remove non-native plants (garlic mustard, buckthorn), use native plants



- Organic Practices: eliminate chemical pesticides, eliminate chemical fertilizers

These are just some of the animals we support with our habitat:



Chipmunk



Monarch butterfly



Groundhog/  
woodchuck



Woodpecker



Squirrel



Wren



Hummingbird



Bumblebee



Ground squirrel



Robin



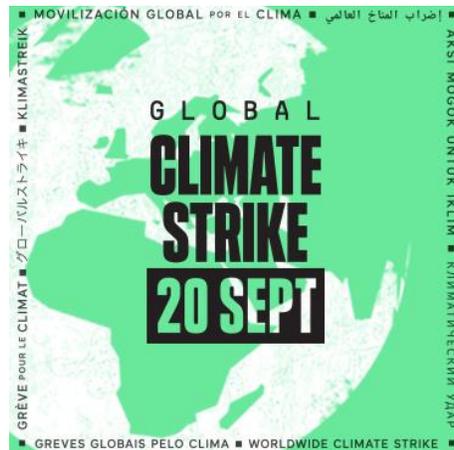
Bat



Goldfinch

We received a certificate to hang in our church and a sign to put on the fence to let our neighbors know of our certification. There are many additional practices and features we can add to our habitat – let me know if you are interested in being part of this work! - Susan Busker

### Climate Justice Strike



In September people everywhere will walk out of their homes and workplaces together, and join young strikers in the streets to demand climate justice and emergency action to tackle the climate crisis. We know governments won't do it on their own, so we're going on #climatestrike to show them what people power is capable of.

Our house is on fire: sound the alarm. The time has come for multigenerational action against climate breakdown. We must follow alongside the youth who have been leading the way this year. [globalclimatestrike.net](http://globalclimatestrike.net)

**The closest Climate Strike planned in our area is in Janesville  
at the Upper Courthouse Park, 99 South Atwood Avenue at 12:00 noon on September 20<sup>th</sup>!  
Let's show up to support the youth in their (our) strike!**

## UUCRV Service at Highview in the Woodlands

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



let Wendy or to rotate in members to are prepared Wendy is not

Our next service is on **September 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm** - consider joining us for this special service!

- Susan Busker

## Laughter Yoga

Our leaders, Jodell and Marty Gabriel, Will lead *Laughter Yoga* on Saturday, September 14 at 9:30 a.m.. 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

<b><u>2019-2020 Officers</u></b>			
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	
			<p><b>Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley</b>  <b>329 School Street</b>  <b>Rockton, IL 61072</b></p> <p><b>815-624-4094</b>  <a href="mailto:uucrockvalley@gmail.com">uucrockvalley@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.uucrv.org">www.uucrv.org</a></p> <p><b>Contact the Minister, Allen Harden:</b>  <b>773-288-2394</b>  <a href="mailto:uucrvminister@gmail.com">uucrvminister@gmail.com</a></p>

