



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

One October 22, eight of us from the church went to see the matinee showing of the new Martin Scorsese film, *Killers of the Flower Moon*. The 3 ½ hour long film depicts the series of murders of wealthy Osage people that took place in Osage County, Oklahoma, in the early 1920s in a plot to steal their rights to the oil deposits found on their land. The film reminded me how the U.S. government forced the Ho-Chunk people who lived on the land where our church now stands to sell their ancestral homeland to allow white miners access to the rich deposits of lead ore found in northwest Illinois and southwest Wisconsin.

The Ho-Chunk agreed to sell their land in an 1829 treaty. In exchange the tribe was to receive a 30-year annuity of \$18,000, 3,000 pounds of tobacco, and 50 barrels of salt. They also received a one-time gift of \$30,000 in gun powder, cooking utensils, and cloth. The federal government also promised to establish three blacksmith shops for the tribe and to maintain them for 30 years and to pay \$33,000 of the tribe's debt to local traders.

After the 1832 Black Hawk War the Ho-Chunk ceded their homelands south of the Wisconsin River, but the federal government wanted them to move west to Iowa, offering them free food and \$10,000 every year for 27 years. While some Ho-Chunk moved to the reserve grounds in Iowa, many simply moved to their lands north of the Wisconsin River. In 1837 the federal government negotiated another treaty whereby the Ho-Chunk sold the last of their lands in Wisconsin for \$1.5 million, most of it put in trust and the interest doled out as an annuity of about \$55,000 a year. But the money also had to pay for support of schools, agricultural teachers, a grist mill, and medical services to the tribe, with only \$20,000 paid in cash and the remainder paid in goods and food. The remaining \$400,000 was set aside to pay outstanding tribal debts to traders and others.

The federal government tried moving the remaining Ho-Chunk out of Wisconsin, but many refused to go. The Ho-Chunk who stayed in Wisconsin had no reservation and were forced to take 40-acre homesteads like white settlers so they could remain. None of the Ho-Chunk treaties reserved rights for them to hunt, fish or gather on their ceded lands.

In 1963 the Wisconsin Ho-Chunk gained federal recognition and acquired some of their ancestral lands in Wisconsin. Their lands are held as federal trust lands like most other tribal land. There are now an estimated 10,000 people of Ho-Chunk descent living in Illinois and Wisconsin.

As shocking as the conspiracy to murder Osage people to steal their oil rights was, we have our own history of removal of the indigenous people from their ancestral land here in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin to open the territory to mine lead, harvest timber and farm the rich prairie soils. The movie, *Killers of the Flower Moon* is now playing in local theaters.

Jerry Paulson

Thanks to Paulette Lucas for the photo of Jerry his cat during the October Blessing of the Animals service.

MARLENE'S MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

These last few weeks have been difficult ones for so many, and in so many ways. As people of faith, as UU's, how do we hold all that is happening in the world in our hearts? How do we hold both terror and injustice, fear and hope, and not have it throw us off balance. I don't often find myself at a loss for words, but I find I'm struggling to put words to my heartbreak and pain. I want you to know that I'm here and available if you want to talk, to share, to sit in silence so please call (my cell # is 970-640-5444).

I want to share with you the following from UUA President the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt because it so speaks to the feelings and confusion I have been having about what is happening in Israel and Palestine and how we as UU's respond.

"Beloveds, I invite you to stop what you are doing if you can and sit with me in the depth of this tragedy. How to reconcile the cost of occupation and of war? How to nuance two very real histories of oppression and violence? I am holding close the words of U.N. Middle East peace envoy Tor Wennesland who said: "This is a dangerous precipice, and I appeal to all to pull back from the brink."

We as a people of faith can condemn violence against civilians while at the same time engaging the full legacies and histories of oppression that shape such devastating conflict. As a faith tradition, Unitarian Universalists have long worked for peace, and our principles and values call for the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. At the same time, we have not engaged the tangled issues surrounding Israel/Palestine in community since 2018, and our last engagement resulted in severed relationships, and deep pain.

I pray for the people of Israel and Palestine. I pray for leaders around the globe who must respond to this latest flare of violence and the untenable ethical considerations that abound. I pray for Muslim and Jewish UUs who experience the impact of this long strife acutely. I pray that those of us less likely to know the trauma of unending brutality and harm will not turn away from generational loss, from the devastating realities and their root causes, or from the relentless tragedy of war and occupation. Be gentle with yourselves when you need to be, but do not turn away unless you must. We are one global family living tenuously on the same human-impacted Earth. Let us center ourselves in justice as we call for peace."

There is also a UUA Statement on the Humanitarian Catastrophe in Gaza and Israel on the UUA website. You can link to it here <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/catastrophe-gaza-and-israel>

And in the words of one of our UU hymns that we sang last month, "May everyone 'neath their vine and fig tree live in peace and unafraid," May it be so!

Blessings,

Rev. Marlene

Community Office Hours Wednesdays Nov 15 and 29 10-noon at Bushel and Peck in Beloit.

Vespers in November: Wednesday November 15 5pm at church and hopefully on Zoom.

A great opportunity to take a pause in the middle of the week, to start to wind down and reflect at the end of the day, and to be in beloved community.

Thanks to Paulette Lucas for the photo of Rev. Marlene blessing Dianna Kevara's dog during the October Blessing of the Animals service.



NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

NOVEMBER 5 WHAT DO ALL SAINTS DAY & ALL SOULS DAY HAVE TO DO WITH NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH? REV. MARLENE WALKER

NOVEMBER 12 – HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE

GUEST VIRTUAL MINISTER: REV. MICHAEL CRUMPLER LAY LEADER: SUSAN BUSKER

Using excerpts from James Baldwin's letter to his namesake nephew, also known as a *Fire Next Time*, Rev. Crumpler addresses the true nature of white supremacy: "There is no reason for you to try to become like white people. And there's no basis whatsoever for their impertinent assumption that they must accept you. The...really terrible thing old buddy is that you must accept them. And I mean this very seriously. You must accept them and accept them with love. For these innocent people have no other hope. They are, in fact, still trapped in a history which they do not understand. And until they understand it, they cannot be released from it."



NOVEMBER 19 WHAT DO WE HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL FOR? REV. DR. MARLENE WALKER

NOVEMBER 26 TOUCHSTONES TOPIC: INTERDEPENDENCE LAY LEADER: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Members of the Touchstones Group Discussions will present a service on this month's topic: Interdependence.

UUCRV ACTIVITIES

THE TOUCHSTONES GROUP DISCUSSION WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15 AT 10:30 AT THE CHURCH.

We welcome returning group members and invite new members to join us.

And encourage ANYONE to drop in and check us out to see if the group is a good fit for you.

To prepare for the discussion, please read the Touchstones Journal. The theme for November is "Interdependence".

https://www.touchstonesproject.com/files/ugd/552cc1_04465f92cda94038a4769d8456654db8.pdf

If you would have any questions about the Touchstones discussion group, contact Connie Matusiak @ 608-361-9669.

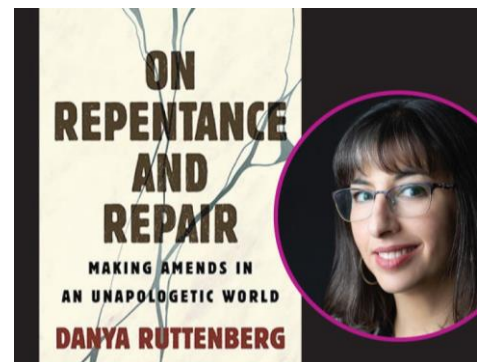
MARLENES UPCOMING BOOK GROUP

UU Common Read, *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World* by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (Beacon Press, 2022) was announced at the UUA 2023 General Assembly.

This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore the call to accountability as we follow Rabbi Ruttenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

On Repentance and Repair invites readers of any faith to explore practices for accountability that can bring us into wholeness and really make a difference in our personal, community, and national relationships.

We will be ordering books from the UUA by the middle of the month so if you would like one, please either sign up at church or let Rev. Walker know.



UUCRV'S GENTLY USED HOLIDAY DÉCOR & PHENOMENAL BAKE SALE

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

Tis the season to participate in the Rockton Christmas Walk. We will be selling "gently used" Christmas items and world acclaimed baked goods made with love by UUCRV members. People come from far & wide for them.

SAVE THE DATE: *Saturday, December 2, and* any holiday items you want to donate. You may bring them to the church starting Nov. 5. Contact Paulette or Wendy if you want items picked up.

Please consider sharing your favorite holiday treats by making something to donate for the bake sale. (hint, hint, Judy P, Adrienne & Connie)

We welcome all who would like to be *Santa's Helpers* to help set-up, take down, work a shift during the sale, and make and sell items for the bake sale.

To volunteer or for more information contact:

- Paulette Lucas plflamingo13@yahoo.com
- Wendy Edgington sing2all@live.com /708-337-9640
- Dianna Kevari (bake sale only) at 608-365-2343.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS PHOTO GALLERY



November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Paulette Lucas's birthday</i>	2	3 10-11 Building Task Force meeting	4
5 *** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 10:30 am Worship: <i>What do all Saints Day & All Souls Day have to do with Native American Heritage Month?</i> Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker	6	7 1-2 pm Finance Committee Zoom meeting	8 <i>Judy Pickle's birthday</i> 2-4 pm Board Zoom Meeting	9	10	11
12 *** 10:30 am Worship: <i>How Then Shall We Live?</i> Virtual Guest Minister: Rev. Michael Crumpler Lay Leader: Susan Busker	13	14 10 to Noon Faith Formation Committee Zoom Meeting	15 10:30 am Touchstones Small Group Discussion 10 to Noon Community Office Hours with Rev. Walker at Bushel & Peck 5pm at church Vespers service;	16	17	18
19 *** 10:30 am Worship: <i>What Do We Have to be Grateful for?</i> Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker	20 <i>Please send in dates and articles for the December Newsletter!</i>	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 Native American Heritage Day	25
26 *** 10:30 am Worship: Touchstones - Interdependence Lay Leader: TBA	27	28	29 10 to Noon Community Office Hours with Rev. Walker at Bushel & Peck	30		

*****WORSHIP SERVICES ARE MULTIPLATFORM INCLUDING ON ZOOM**

(THE ZOOM LINK IS IN THE "SERVICE INFORMATION" EMAIL SENT TO MEMBERS & FRIENDS PRIOR TO THE SERVICE. REQUEST SERVICE INFORMATION BY EMAILING: UUCROCKVALLEY@GMAIL.COM)

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY OF ROCK VALLEY
329 School Street, Rockton, IL 61072
815-624-4094

uucrockvalley@gmail.com www.uucrv.org

2022-2023 OFFICERS

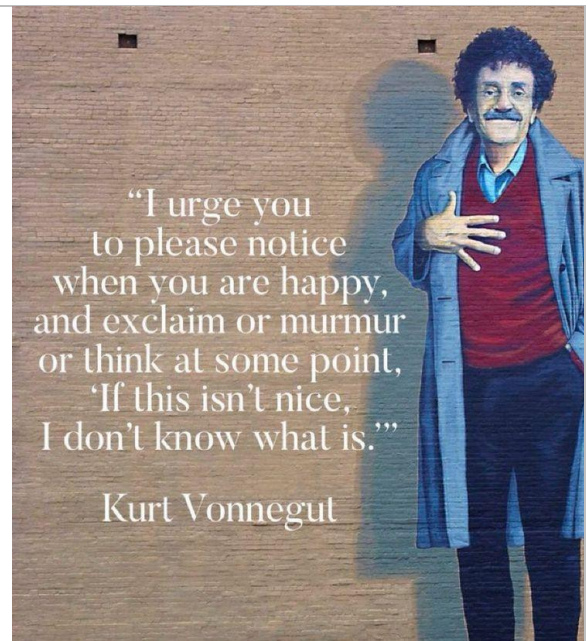
President	Jerry Paulson	815-222-4414
Vice-President	Cher Zimmerman	608-365-2343
Secretary	Jodell Gabriel	815-742-0704
Treasurer	Paulette Lucas	815-601-3225
At Large	Carol Klager	815-298-0477

Members are welcome at all UUCRV committee meetings.
Check the calendar in this newsletter for meeting times.
If you have questions or comments to share, contact board members or the appropriate committee chair.

Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker

Email: revmwalker@mac.com

Phone: 970-640-5444



COMMITTEES & CHAIRS (OR CO-CHAIRS)

Finance: Cher Zimmerman

Faith Formations: Susan Busker

Membership: Diana Kevari

Building & Grounds: Denny Broderick & Brock Heckel

Technology Advancements: Denny Broderick

Music: Wendy Edgington, Denny Broderick & Amy Phelps

TASK GROUPS

Spruce up: Paulette Lucas

Newsletter: Editor Jodell Gabriel; Calendar Susan Busker

REMINDER: UUANI 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: BUILDING COMMUNITY, BENDING THE ARC TOWARD JUSTICE!

Join UUs from across Illinois as we celebrate 10 years of spiritually grounded, relationally accountable, strategically effective work for justice, beloved community and a healthy planet. *Nicole Pressley* from *Side with Love/UU the Vote* will be our keynote speaker. We'll share ideas and plans for the year ahead, showcasing congregational social justice work around the state as well as upcoming campaigns with our statewide partners.

This event for all UUs will be both in-person at Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation in Springfield and online via Zoom. If you can't make it to Springfield, please register anyways and join a watch party at your congregation!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 FROM 10 AM TO 3 PM

ONLINE & AT ABRAHAM LINCOLN UU CONGREGATION, SPRINGFIELD, IL

REGISTER BY SCANNING BELOW

