



UUCRV NEWS – September 2024

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



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hi,

I'm so excited about September, there is a lot going on at UUCRV. September 7 starts our first 'sit with'. Wendy came up with the phrase. Instead of a 'sit in' which we did when we were younger, a 'sit with' is getting together at our church on the highway 75, side sitting in our lawn chairs holding signs about voting. One week we will be at our church and the next week we will be in Beloit. Parking will be in front of the Beloit Rotary Center 1003 Pleasant Street. It is a lot of fun and I hope you will join us on Saturdays until the election.



The UU Climate Justice Revival which is taking place all over the country should be interesting. It is Saturday September 28, 1-5 at our church. Rockford Church will be joining us for the workshop. We will be going to the Rockford Church on Sunday the 29 at 10:00 for the worship service and Post-Service Organizing Hour. put on by the UUA. Hope you will attend.

If you are interested in joining us at a board meeting let me know and I'll send you the link.
Have a great month,

Cher

MARLENE'S MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

Ah, September, as a summer lover I am not a fan of September; and for so many, many, many years September has always meant to me the beginning of a yet a new church year. This is how I have greeted September for 32 years! I love the excitement and anticipation of new beginnings, new programming, new hopes, and new people. This is also the beginning of my 5th and final year as your minister and my final year of active ministry. To say that I have feels about all of this would be an understatement! This will be a year of transition for both you, as a congregation, and for me as a minister. In addition to the excitement of new beginnings it will also hold the fullness of endings, of last times. I think my favorite poet is T.S. Eliot and these lines from his poem *Little Gidding* are very much in my heart.



*“What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make and end is to make a beginning.*

I invite you to join me on this journey of beginnings and endings.

Blessings Marlene

(for those interested here is a link to longer section of Eliot's poem, <https://www.carolyndaughters.com/little-gidding/>)

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

September 1 – Abbreviate Worship Service - Lay Leader: Nina Herzer. Chicken Shish kabob POTLUCK and games to follow. Please bring your own place service and service utensils if you bring a dish to pass.

September 8 – Soul Matters: Invitation and Water Communion - Rev. Marlene Walker, Our Soul Matters Theme for September is Invitation. How might we practice centering Love through invitation? What does inviting really mean? This is also our **Annual Water Communion Service** which marks the beginning of another church year. So please bring water to share (we will of course have extra water for pouring). You are invited!

September 15 – Poetry Plus - Lay Leaders: Connie Matusiak and Judy Pickle. There is no specific topic. You are invited to be a part of the service, if you would like to share a poem, brief essay or favorite quote. Please contact Connie or Judy if you have something to share or if you have any questions. **Submission deadline is September 8!**

September 22 – 16:49 serving Rock County’s unaccompanied homeless teens



Guest Speaker: Tammy DeGarmo, Director of 16:49

Lay Leader: Nina Herzer *16:49 is the time between school ending one day and starting the next. Project 16:49 is a local non-profit organization serving Rock County’s unaccompanied homeless teens, ensuring access to the services and support these students need to remain in school, graduate and become self-sufficient adults. 16:49 is designated as our “Share-the-Plate” organization for the next quarter beginning in October.*

September 29 – 10:00 a.m., UU Climate Justice Revival worship and Post-Service Organizing Hour. **This will be held at the UU Rockford Church and also live streamed.** 4848 Turner St, Rockford. 61107

UUCRV ACTIVITIES

UU Climate Justice Revival September 28 & 29th

Our Congregation is joining with the Rockford UU Church, and other UU congregations across the country for a Climate Justice Revival on the weekend of September 28 & 29th. The theme of the revival is “Reimagine Together, From An Extractive Age To A New Era.” UUCRV will host a workshop on Saturday, Sept. 28th from 1 to 5 p.m., entitled “Climate Justice: From Conversation to Action!”. This will be held outside, weather permitting, and will be led by trained facilitators who will help the group focus on how our two congregations can work together toward climate justice.

We will need many people to help clean the church, set up tents, chairs, speaker systems and rearrange the RE room for use as a daycare. Please say “yes, how can I help” when asked. We’ll also need help taking everything down after the workshop. We also will ask for help providing refreshments during the workshop.

On Sunday we will join the Rockford church at 10 AM for a climate themed worship service, followed by an “Organizing Hour” to develop joint actions we can take. **THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT UUCRV ON SEPT. 29th** - the UU Rockford service will be live on YouTube. Or you may attend in person. (See the attached Justice flyer for address)

Please register for the workshop by using the QR code on the enclosed flier or emailing Wendy at uucrockvalley@gmail.com. Questions should be directed to me at: paulsonjerry@aol.com.

Jerry Paulson

Touchstones Small Group

The Touchstones Small Group will be meeting on Wednesday, September 18th at 10:30 at the church. We invite anyone to attend who would like to see what the meeting is like.

The topic to be discussed is "Ritual". The 8-page Touchstone's Journal on the month's topic is read beforehand and discussed at the meeting. Wendy has added an attachment to this newsletter of the Journal for you to download and read if you would like to join us.

Please contact Connie Matusiak with any questions. 608-361-9669 cminthegarden@gmail.com

From UU Ministry for Earth

Full Moon Gathering *September 18, 2024 7- 8pm EDT*



Let's gather to honor the rhythm of the moon and call on it for support as we imagine! Register here: <https://forms.gle/P23KnjKDD6WkQYWN9> Save this [Zoom link](#) in your calendar.



UUCRV has a subscription to Worship materials to support our Faith Formation in Worship Services. Soul Matters materials provide tools for *individual* exploration and spiritual discernment.

The Soul Matters Sharing Circle LLC is a network of Unitarian Universalist congregations who follow the same monthly themes in a web of support and connection, traveling a new journey together each month.

The Soul Matters TOPIC this month: ***Invitation***

Welcome to the Practice of Invitation

*Do not try to save the whole world
or do anything grandiose.*

*Instead, create a clearing
in the dense forest of your life
and wait there patiently,
until the song that is your life falls
into your own cupped hands
and you recognize and greet it.*

*Only then will you know
how to give yourself to this world
so worthy of rescue.*

-Clearing by Martha Postlewaite

There is so much saving needed in this world of ours. Especially in this moment. Which is why this call for clearings and cupped hands seems so odd and out of place. Doesn't this dear poet understand

the urgency of the moment? Doesn't she understand that we need to be lifting up our voices as loudly as we can, not carving out space for quiet? Doesn't she understand that we need engaged hands not cupped hands, with all of us pushing as hard as we can against the tide and madly mending a world that is about to be torn in two?

Well, yes, she certainly could be clueless. But it's also clear that she thinks we are the wrong-headed ones. Hers is an invitation to see that our urgent, muscular mode of saving is just not what the world needs.

And of course she is correct. In our better and clearer moments, we know the world needs us to be grounded and centered before rushing into battle. We need those cupped hands to catch our breath before we cover them with boxing gloves and engage the fight.

We also know that creating clearings is never a waste of time. The dense forest homes we so carefully cultivate keep us safe and comfortable, but they also make it hard to see the horizon and the newly rising sun. Clearings let that new light in and in turn help us notice when we are applying old ways of being and thinking to a world that isn't here anymore.

Ah, that seems right. A good place to leave it. With us thanking the poet for her invitation to better understand what the world needs.

But there's that pesky piece about the world handing our song back to us. That complicates things. It means this isn't just an invitation to see what the world needs, but also an invitation to notice that the world sees us in need and is trying to give us a gift; an invitation to notice that the world is also an actor in this precious play, not just an object we are acting upon; an invitation to notice that while we are focused on saving the world, the world is also focused on saving us.

Or to put it another way, maybe the world is trying to love us. And we are being invited to let it. Maybe that is what this talk of cupped hands is all about.

And if so, what a way to begin this new church year! And maybe even what a way to travel through our lives all the time! With cupped hands, remembering and open to receiving the love of the world.

Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker (she,her)

Unitarian Universalist

CHURCH OF STOCKTON, IL

Love is our spirit and service our mission. All are welcome here.

August 13, 2024



Dear UU Fellowship/Church,

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton would like to invite you to attend our upcoming "Music on Pearl" concert on Saturday, September 21 at 2 p.m. Performing will be the singer/song-writer Ernie Hendrickson. Ernie hales from Chicago now, but is originally from Shullsburg, Wisconsin. With his blend of folk and blues guitar, you will be treated to an entertaining afternoon of feel-good music! Ernie's website is erniehendrickson.com, if you'd like to see some samples of his music.

Seats are limited and tickets are now available online by going to our website at uuchurchofstockton.org and clicking on the "Music on Pearl" tab. Admission is \$10 pp. The concert will be held in the sanctuary and it is handicapped accessible via the rear entrance. The church



MUSIC ON PEARL PRESENTS
ERNIE HENDRICKSON
AMERICANA SINGER/SONGWRITER/GUITARIST
9/21/2024 SAT, 2 PM \$10
219 N PEARL ST, STOCKTON IL

TIX AVAILABLE AT UUCHURCHOFSTOCKTON.ORG
or at the door (seating ltd)

is located at 219 N. Pearl in Stockton. Light refreshments will be available.

Enclosed are some posters for you to share or display if possible. If you have any questions, please email us at musiconpearl@gmail.com. You can also find us and follow us Facebook.

Thank you and we hope to see you on September 21!

Sincerely,

The Music on Pearl Committee: Diane Westervelt, Jeff Pape, Nancy Schuldt, Bill Schuldt, Laura Dufford, Doug Dufford, Sheila Haman, and Mark Haman

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815-624-4094

uucrockvalley@gmail.com



Our Vision: We envision Beloved Community where all are welcome.

Our Mission: The mission of this congregation is to create community, celebrate worship, seek justice and truth and live guided by love.

Our Unitarian Universalist Values



Graphic attributed to the artist Tanya Webster (chalice.org)

2024-2025 OFFICERS

President Cher Zimmerman 608-365-2343

Vice-President Carol Klager 815-298-0477

Secretary Barb Fett Timmer 608-449-6858

Treasurer Paulette Lucas 815-601-3225

Trustee Wendy Edgington 708-337-9640

Members are welcome at all UUCRV Board and 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

SHARE THE PLATE THIS QUARTER

This quarter we are sharing 50% of additional donations made in the plate or by mail (beyond your pledge) with **Nature at the Confluence** in South Beloit, IL.



<https://natureattheconfluence.com/>

UUCRV Activities in September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Tricia Graham's birthday</i> 10:30 am Worship POTLUCK	2 Labor Day	3	4 <i>Denny Broderick's birthday</i> <i>Diane Busker's birthday</i>	5	6	7 12:00 pm Weekly "Sit Withs" begin★ <i>Gloria Shafer's birthday</i>
8 *** 10:30 am Worship: Soul Matters – Invitation & Water Communion Rev. Marlene Walker	9	10 2:00 pm Finance Committee Zoom meeting	11	12	13 1:00 pm Board Zoom meeting	14 ★
15 *** Hispanic Heritage Month begins 10:30 am Worship: Poetry Plus Lay Leaders: Connie Matusiak & Judy Pickle	16	17 2:30 pm Faith Formation Committee Zoom Meeting	18 10:30 am Touchstones Small Group Discussion 1:00 pm Membership Meeting <i>in person</i>	19	20 <i>Please send in dates and articles for the October Newsletter!</i>	21 ★
22 *** 10:30 am Worship: 16:49 serving Rock County's homeless teens Guest Speaker: Tammy DeGarmo Lay Leader: Nine Herzer	23	24	25	26	27 <i>Phil Dierstein's birthday</i>	28 ★
29 *** 10:00 am Worship: Climate Justice Revival <i>at the Rockford UU Church and livestreamed</i>	30 Rumi's Birthday Born: 1207	Come, Come whoever you are by Rumi Come, Come whoever you are, Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving, It doesn't matter. Ours is not a caravan of despair. Come, even if you have broken your vow a thousand times. Come, yet again, come, come.				

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

(The ZOOM link is in the "Service Information" email sent to members & friend prior to the service.

Request service information by emailing uucrockvalley@gmail.com)