



UUCRV NEWS – August 2026

Published by and for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley
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THE PREZ SEZ:

Hi All!

We're now beyond the halfway point of summer. Vacations either have passed or are about to take place. We've weathered heat and storms with more to come before summer is over and hopefully haven't suffered too much damage.

My first Board meeting happened in July which went well, an education for me to be sure. New business on the horizon: a congregational survey was generated and distributed and now is awaiting gathering up those surveys from you all! We want to hear from you, your feedback, your ideas and even, perhaps some of you joining a committee or two. We can also use some help planning and working on the Christmas bake sale/craft sale.

Another interesting idea was having a Strategic Planning retreat/workshop to work on a 3 to 5 year plan. Evidently the last workshop was right after Marlene came on board. There are winds of change, energy vibes happening on the planet, in this country and even here! It could be an exciting time to grow our church. Is there a multi-faith group in the area and can we be involved or if not, maybe we could network to begin one. Just throwing that out there. Growth depends on connection, visibility and heart. Any connections to be made with Beloit College? Surrounding towns?

Fortunately I'm new and everything is a blank slate full of possibility. I'm sure there's a lot of history for me to learn—I'm a quick learner! This is the season of Leo and the energy of the sun is powering us forward to our best selves. As always, together we're gonna make it! Drop me an email!

Love to All,

Jane



HYMN OF THE MONTH

*We will not have an August Hymn because the **coro piccolo** (a small choral group) has taken August to regroup and recharge. If you would like to sing with the group, please contact Jane. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!*

UUCRV ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST 2026

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Faith Formation – **8/4**, 10:30 am (Zoom)

Finance Committee – **8/5**, 1:00 pm (Zoom)

Board Meeting – **8/7**, 1:00 pm (Zoom)

Pete & Diane's Busker's Remembrance – **8/22**. We will share details soon for a visitation where friends and family may come together and offer their condolences.

Membership Committee - **8/26**, 1:00 pm

On **August 30th**, we will have a *Bring a Friend to Church Day*. Also on August 30th, we will be having our annual HOT DIGGITY DOG POTLUCK!!! We supply the dogs, you supply the salads, chips, desserts, etc. If you bring a friend, bring extra grub.

BIRTHDAYS:

3 - Judy Stevens

11 - Melinda Stogsdill

14 - Connie Matusiak

19 - Cher Zimmerman
19 - Jane Viemeister
30 - Jan Henningsen

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

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)

August 9 - Getting to know our members - Kathy & Jane

August 16 - National Relaxation Day

August 23 - Topic: "In Likeness of the Divine", Guest Minister Richelle Pearson

Richelle writes

"Dear friends of Rockton UU,

It is our great joy to be with you on August 23rd. Thank you for the invitation in that this is a kind of home coming. We grew up on a dairy farm less than 10 miles from Rockton on Latham Rd. We graduated from Hononegah HS in 1973 and went on to Wheaton College to get a degree in Christian Education and Biblical Studies. Studied at Luther Seminary in St. Paul MN for a Masters in Divinity.

We served Lutheran churches in Wisconsin, First Congregational church in Roscoe and United Church of Christ congregations in Indiana and Kentucky.

We retired in 2016 and have rebuilt houses and bicycles We "came out" as non-binary (we will talk about that on the 23rd) and have been a member off the Voices of Kentuckiana LGBTQIA+ choir for the last three years. Our direction and purpose have greatly changed as we are living into a whole new way of being out authentic self.

We are looking forward to sharing more of our story and some of our poetry!

Blessed be, Richelle Pearson"

August 30 - Open Read - Your Choice

August 30th: Bring a Friend to Church Day. Please tell Trish how many you're bringing.

August 30th: *HOT DIGGITY DOG POTLUCK*. We supply the dogs, you supply the salads, chips, desserts, etc.

CULTURAL HOLIDAYS

(thank you Susan Busker)

Black Business Month - challenges black businesses face, highlight local black businesses

○August 1

■ *Lammas Day* - An Anglo-Saxon Christianized festival stemming from Old English hlaf-maesse (Loaf Mass); A more formal, agrarian holiday centered around tithing and bringing the first loaves of the grain harvest to the church to be blessed.

■ *Lughnasadh*: Rooted in ancient Celtic mythology and named after the Irish sun god, Luga; A lively, communal celebration marked by athletic games (the Tailtean games), feasting, honoring Lugh's foster mother, and market gatherings.

○August 9 *International Day of the World's indigenous People* - UN observance

○August 15 - *National Relaxation Day*

○August 28 - *Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day*

○August 30 - *National Grief Awareness Day*

YELLOW BRICK ROAD ORGANIZATION PRESENTS:

ROCK THE PRIDE

2026



Saturday, August 22nd 2026

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Telfer Park - Edwards Ice Arena
2101 Cranston Rd
Beloit, WI 53511

Free Entry | All Ages Welcome

Bring your pride, your friends, and your full fabulous self!

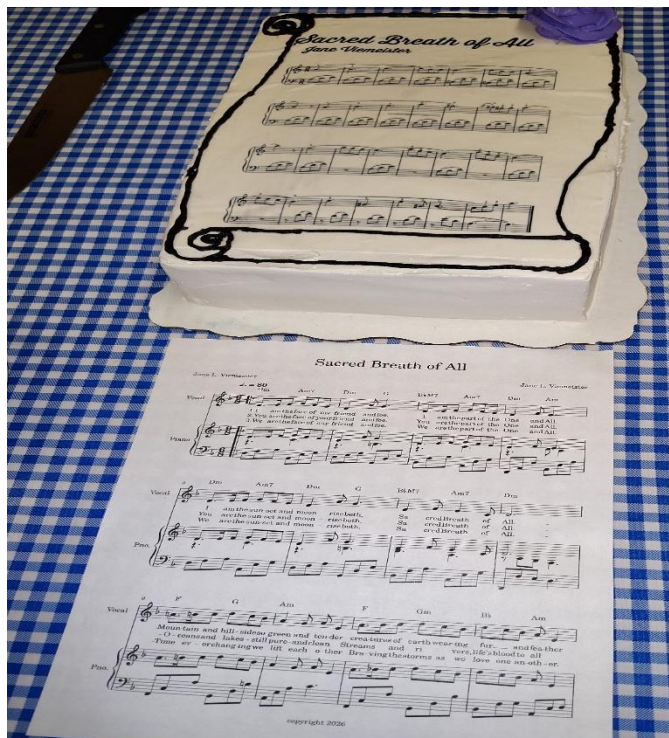
Show up for your community!****

For a number of years, we have had a UUCRV table there. We Need Volunteers! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Cher Z.

UUCRV NEWS

We are proud to announce that the Unitarian Universalist Association has chosen a hymn one of our members has composed, to be included in the NEW online hymnal. It is the composition of our very own Prez, Jane Viemeister!

After the July 26 Worship Service, Trish Alger acknowledged Jane's achievement and Jerry Paulson presented her with a bouquet of fresh cut flowers. We also had delicious cake & ice-cream thanks to Trish and the Membership Committee. (see photos)



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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
(chalicedays.org)

2026-2027 OFFICERS

President: Jane Viemeister

Vice-President: Barbara Fett-Timmer

Secretary: Denny Broderick

Treasurer: Carol Klager

Trustee: Heather Hansen

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.

Pastoral Care Team

- ✦ *Jerry Paulson*
- ✦ *Judy Pickle*

SHARE THE PLATE THIS QUARTER

*This quarter, July through September, we are sharing 50% of additional donations made in the plate or by mail (beyond your pledge) with **to be determined**.*

Final thoughts...

August invites us to pause. The long light, warm evenings, gardens, and gatherings can create room to notice what has sustained us—and what still calls for our attention. Summer reflection is not an escape from the world; it can be a way of returning to it with clearer eyes and renewed hearts.

As Unitarian Universalists, we understand justice as faith put into action: breaking down divisions, honoring the interconnectedness of life, and working alongside those most affected by injustice. Our reflection matters most when it helps us ask honest questions. Where have we grown too comfortable? Whose voices have we not heard? What small, faithful act can we take next?

May summer restore us for the work ahead. Let us carry gratitude into courage and walk together toward justice, one compassionate step at a time.