

UUCRV Activities in October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 *** Banned Books & Music	5	6 10:30 - Faith Formation Zoom	7 1:30 - Finance Committee Zoom	8	9 12:00 - Board Zoom Meeting	10
11*** Indigenous People's Day	12	13 Wendy Edgington Birthday	14	15	16	17
18*** Tending Our Traditions – Sermon of the Month	19	20	21 4:00 Membership Meeting	22	23	24
25*** History of LGBTQ in Rockford, guest speaker Andrew Mertzenich	26	27	28 Jerry Paulson Birthday	29	30	31

*** WORSHIP SERVICES ARE MULTIPLATFORM INCLUDING ON ZOOM worship services begin at 10:30 am (these are service topics)
 (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)



UUCRV NEWS – October 2026

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



Hi All!

Wow, such a rainy time we've been having! The season is definitely turning as we moved past the Fall Equinox on September 22. Changing our wardrobes from spring/summer to fall/winter, taking stock of our balance in the world and our lives, is bringing on that period of preparation for the dark season in the High Arctic, the season of pumpkins, harvest, family gatherings and contemplation on cool fall afternoon walks here in the Midwest.



The recent past months has seen the passing of Susan Busker's dear parents and the passing of dear Connie Matusiak, all beloved members of UUCRV. Our love and support for their families was evident at their memorial services as we gathered.

We enter October with anticipation as time will swiftly bring us into November and December! October 5th is the Farmer's Market in Beloit where Barb Fett Timmer has organized our presence in a booth celebrating Butterflies. Come on by to help support the booth, 1 hour 15 minute slots are available, the more the merrier!

Building Improvement Task Force is working on better accessibility to both the front door and a more accessible bathroom for wheelchairs and light diffusing curtain panels for the sanctuary.

Faith Formations has some fun, interesting services coming up with the possible topics: Banned Books, Tending Our Traditions (a Sermon of the Month), a Speaker from Rockford on the LGBTQIA history of that city, Samhain. All these topics will be falling into place over the next few days. Our Faith Formations Committee has a lot of fun looking at possible topics and, as always, welcome ideas for future services as well as help producing them! We are on Zoom **October 6th at 10:30-12:30**.

Our Choir is doing well, breathing and singing together every Sunday morning at **9:15-10:00**. We're preparing our hymns of the month for the next three months, a couple of anthems, one for October Pure Imagination from Willy Wonka and November is At This Table, a Harvest invitation to pull up a chair. December will be full of holiday music!

The Board will be meeting on **October 9th at 12:00 noon** on Zoom to discuss a possible church retreat next year with the UUA MidAmerica Region representative to get some guidance for that possibility.

So, we are a busy, busy bunch. Small but mighty. Your ideas and feedback are always heard and always welcome. Your participation helps us function and grow as a beloved community. Feel free to contact me with questions, ideas and if I don't know the answer I'll find out.

jane.lathrop@gmail.com Enjoy your pumpkin spice lattes and candles or cider donuts with hot cider and see you on Sunday or at a Zoom meeting!

With love and peace, Jane Viemeister

NEWS FROM COMMITTEES & TEAMS

Finance - The committee will be meeting on zoom Wednesday, October 7.

Membership - The Membership Committee meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month, 4pm.

There are upcoming exceptions:

October's meeting will be on the 21st, 4pm.

November's meeting will be on the 18th, 4pm.

December's meeting has been canceled.

We will be celebrating Halloween on November 1st this year. Continuing in our tradition, we encourage costumes. Also, we'll have our annual scary foods potluck. Bring out your imagination on Nov. 1!

Social Justice Team – We will be ‘adopting’ potential Michigan voters and sending them preprinted letters encouraging them to vote in the Midterms. Some of us will gather at the church for a ‘writing gathering’. These can also be done at home.

They need to be sent out by October 24. Social Justice has a budget, so participants are not responsible for the postage!

Watch your email for a ‘recruitment’ letter. I think it’s important we do what we can to preserve our democracy.

For more information about vote forward, and detailed information about how the letter writing works, check out their website <https://votefwd.org/instructions>

In peace, Wendy E

From the Desk Of... This month we visit the desk of Barbara Fett-Timmer! Barbara shares her musings with us

“Lately I have been missing the old 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism; before they became JETPIG!

This weekend I was going through the UUA website specifically to look at the new WOVEN FAITH materials available for small group ministries and found a very nice description of our UU Covenant that I like a lot! Here it is:

INTERDEPENDENCE: We honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it.

PLURALISM: We are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

JUSTICE: We work to be diverse multicultural beloved communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.

TRANSFORMATION: We adapt to the changing world.

GENEROSITY: We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

EQUITY: We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love and compassion. Thank you, Barbara!

(from the editor) I encourage anyone who would like to submit an interesting tidbit of anything related to Unitarian Universalism or its principles (historic or current), to email it me, Wendy, at UUCRockValley@gmail.com

Hymn of the Month

October Hymn of the Month: “The Web of Life” by Sara Ruth Davis A pretty tune celebrating the web of life stressing unity, mellow.

<https://www.singoutlove.org/hymn-composer/sara-ruth-davis>

Sharing our joy together.
Bearing our grief together.
The web of life holds us in this truth;
we are not alone.

Striving for change together.
Healing our pain together.
The web of life holds us in this truth;
we are not alone.

Journeying on together.
Learning to love together.
The web of life holds us in this truth;
we are not alone.

Sara Ruth Davis is a contemporary composer and song creator recognized for contributing new music resources to the Unitarian Universalist (UU) tradition. Her work is primarily featured in the Sing Out Love Virtual Hymnal, a collection launched by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Key Musical Contributions

- **Accessible Worship Music:** Davis designs her hymns specifically for modern congregational settings. Her pieces are curated within a platform built to be an "accessible, equitable, online platform grounded in UU values".
- **Modern Copyright Innovation:** One of the defining practical elements of her contributions to the Sing Out Love hymnal is that her music is distributed with open licensing permissions. This allows contemporary churches to freely sing her work in worship, print the lyrics in programs, make physical copies, and legally broadcast the performances on digital live streams without administrative hurdles.
- **Thematic Focus:** Her music aligns closely with the spiritual themes of the UUA, aiming to serve as "joyful, liberatory, and anti-oppressive" art that aids communities in living into a prophetic faith calling.



October Birthdays

13th - Wendy Edgington

28th – Jerry Paulson

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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, October through December, we are sharing 50% of additional donations made in the plate or by mail (beyond your pledge) with Caritas located in Beloit, WI. Here are the key points of their community outreach:

Our Services

- [Food Pantry](#)
- [Diaper Bank](#)
- [Community Garden](#)
- [Birthday Bags](#)

Final thoughts... As the crisp autumn air arrives, October invites us into a season of deep reflection and transformation, beautifully mirroring the Unitarian Universalist living tradition. Just as the trees vibrantly let go of their leaves, we are reminded of our profound [interdependence with the natural world](#) and the inevitability of change. In our congregations and our homes, this month serves as a sacred space for [cultivating compassion](#) and staying curious—embracing the mystery of the unknown rather than rushing to absolute certainty. Grounded in love and a commitment to justice, we welcome October as a time to listen deeply to one another, honor our shared journey, and live our values through meaningful action. (AI)