



River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817
301-229-0400 www.rruuc.org

eWeekly Newsletter: November 16 - 25, 2017

Our Vision: to grow and deepen in Fellowship, Spirit and Service for all ages

What's Happening Sunday, November 19

Two services at 9:15am and 11:15am

Covenant: A Promise We Keep With Ourselves

Rev. Louise Green

People of free faith have long made agreements about how to be together as their best selves, in promises called covenants. We explore the structure of this rich Unitarian tradition and the relationship to the many freedoms we affirm. This will launch a process of exploring a statement of covenant at River Road, led by the Covenant Task Force, at the request of the Board of Trustees.

Contemporary Issues Forum (CC&C)

A Rising Tide for Single-Payer Health Care?

James McGee - Certified Employee Benefits Specialist

Jim McGee spent his career in that portion of health care that is supposed to work - employer sponsored health care. He will discuss his conversion story and examine what single-payer health care is. If enacted, how will it impact individuals? Your family? What is happening to make it happen on the state and federal levels? Jim will address audience questions and concerns on this important and provocative topic.



Inquirers want to know about . . . Worship & Liturgical Year Sunday, November 19, 10:30-11:30am, Rm 31



Curious about the elements of our worship services: why use a particular reading or a certain piece of music? Which holidays do we celebrate and why? Find the answers to these questions, meet lay leaders, and learn more about how we "do worship" at River Road. Perfect for Newcomers! Drop in or sign up online [here](#).

The RRUUC Animal Ministry Task Force will

sell peanut butter dog biscuits after the first service. Proceeds will enable us to conduct a service project with Worthy Dog Rescue to improve the lives of dogs who are confined to pens or are chained in backyards.



What do you like about winter holidays at River Road?

Tell the world in 100 words or less on the RRUUC website. Is it the Winter Music service? Or maybe Christmas Eve services? The Solstice Celebration? Maybe the feeling of family, peace, and hope? All the above?! Selected testimonials will be posted on the



Next Week



Thursday and Friday November 23 and 24

RRUUC office will be closed.
**Building is open Friday
for Friendsgiving & BLM
vigil.**



November 24, 1-4 pm

Join us for a new tradition, a Thanksgiving meal at River Road! Enjoy a great meal with RRUUC friends- some of whom feel like family. We provide the bird and veggie bird and gravies. You bring your favorite Thanksgiving side, dessert, or beverage to share. Join with River Road for a new tradition with old and new friends. An antidote to Black Friday and a chance to build our community! Please label ingredients for your dish and please bring enough for 8 people. Sign up [here](#).

Adult Religious Education

**APPROACHING THE
LONGEST NIGHT: A
Writer's Advent
Sunday, December 10,
12:45-2pm**

site (with your first name and your choice of with or without with your photo). Please [email Sheri](#).

Congregational Care Notes



A new initiative launched this week, announced by the **RRUUC Covenant Task Force** on Tuesday. As part of our caring for one another, we might ask: How do we want to be together, when we are our best selves?

Read the proposed draft Covenant [here](#). Rev. Louise will preach about this on **Sunday November 19**, in **Covenants: A Promise We Keep With Ourselves**. Explore covenants in UU history, why we have them, and the process for adopting a joint statement on January 28, at our two services, 9:15 and 11:15am.

Wishing good travels to all those heading out for Thanksgiving in many places, and welcome to all family and friends arriving here to visit.

Connect with RRUUC folks in two ways next week: the **Friendsgiving** potluck on **Friday, November 24** in the afternoon, or on **Sunday, November 26**, at ONE service, **10am**. If you need a ride, please let **Alexa Fraser**, Intern Minister know. Alexa's [email](#).

May you enjoy and savor others, the family both given and chosen. Do ask your friends for support with all the usual holiday challenges!

A Big Thank You for a successful LEGO release party for Nancy Grace Roman last Sunday, November 12

We thank: **Petrina Hollingsworth** and **Lisa Orange** for arranging, decorating, everything regarding cakes and LEGO lollipops, the **Rev. Louise Green** and **Barbara Lewis** for companionship, **Ruth Ladd** for Lego set building and **Zach Wishod** for his party planning ideas, and his mother, **Jennifer Lowe**, for driving him and **Luz Ugarte**, our Sunday custodian. And to **Nancy Grace**, of course, great appreciation for her generosity of spirit and the grace with which she does everything.



Upcoming RRUUC Events

THANKSGIVING SOCK AND TOILETRY DRIVE

Again this year, the youth group will collect new socks and toiletries (no bar soap, please) to be donated to Bethesda Cares. Donations will be accepted from **November 5-19 in the Fellowship Hall**.

Among the many things that Bethesda Cares aims to do is to "end and ease homelessness." Your donations contribute to that goal.

Art Exhibit - by RRUUC member Walter Weiss

It can be hard to feel festive around the holidays when you are feeling alone, grieving, or overwhelmed. Come to an interactive workshop to reflect on loneliness and moving toward hope during the busy holiday season using resources from the Quakers, Rumi and Jan Richardson. The class will be led by facilitator Pam McFarland, who attends All Souls in Washington, DC, and will include meditation, contemplation, journaling, and discussion. Bring a journal and a pen. Free Will Offering. Sign up [here](#).

Activity Groups

Morning Book Group

Friday, November 17, 9:45am
Fiatfalva Rm

Book Group will meet to discuss **The Third Reconstruction** by Rev. Dr. Wm. Barber. Questions? Contact Candace Ridington by email.

German Conversation Group

Next meeting December 3

The German Conversation Group meets on the first Sunday each month after the services. We are a group of people that want to practice their language skills and keep their brains supple. We discuss current events, church issues as well as our own lives. Approximately every other month, we watch and discuss a provocative German movie. Interested? Please contact Elke Jordan via email.

Lunch & Learn, Thursday, December 7, 12-2pm, Fiatfalva

Topic will be: How to use your Android phone better & apps you may need. Bring your own lunch, enjoy visiting while you eat & then we will tackle our Android phones. Contact Ursula Scott with questions.

Check out the RRUUC Bookstore!!



Mostly Family through Dec 15, Fellowship Hall

For the last several years Walter has been painting people, mostly family. He says: "We respond to the smallest changes in faces, and this makes portrait painting both challenging and interesting." The six panel painting of the Frisbee player was inspired by a room-sized painting by Rubens, with a guard lunging to rescue a woman being carried away on horseback.

Check it out!

INTERESTED IN TRAVELING TO TRANSYLVANIA IN 2018?

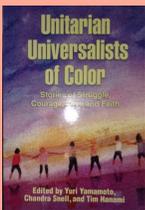
The UU Partner Church Council is offering several organized travel opportunities to Transylvania during the year of the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda, which established religious tolerance and permitted Unitarianism to emerge. Join other Unitarians and learn about our shared faith! For more information, visit [UUPC website](#) or email Partner Church [here](#) at RRUUC.

Social Justice News

Interest in Hosting Persons Seeking Asylum

RRUUC is generously supporting several refugees, and now, the Immigration and Refugee committee, with the support of our ministers, would like to develop an anticipatory list of RRUUC individuals or families who are willing to host a person (or persons) at their home for a limited time while these immigrants pursue legalization through asylum. We expect such requests only occasionally, through the ministers, but want to prepare in advance to be able to respond judiciously. Initial experience is that this is an enriching response for all concerned, full of learning and relationship-building. The Immigration Committee will coordinate this initiative, with discretion, and work with volunteer host and the ministers to place any such persons. If you are interested, please contact cjonescarroll@aol.com. If you are unable to host but would like to support those who do, please also let us know.

UUs of Color: Stories of Struggle, Courage, Love and Faith



is an engaging book, a collection of individual stories, some of which are bound to move each of us. It's a good starting point for honest conversations about the gap between our UU principles/intentions and the effect of white-centered culture in de-railing those intentions. For a copy of the book, email [Vonna Heaton](mailto:Vonna.Heaton). Payment options: cash, check to UUofColorStoryProject, or use PayPal via this [email](#) address. Each book costs \$15.

Sharing Our Stories - The Transformative Value of Caucusing Saturday, December 2, 9-12:30pm, RRUUC Sanctuary

All UUs are welcome to join the "Sharing Our Stories - The Transformative Value of Caucusing" workshop. The workshop will focus on learning and reflection based on the themes of the book Unitarian Universalists of Color, and will be facilitated by book contributors Yuri Yamamoto and Takiyah Nur Amin. The session will include time dedicated to caucusing as people of color and white-identified Unitarian Universalists. Participants are encouraged to read the book before arriving for the day's shared learning. The workshop is free, but registration is requested. Registration is now open through Eventbrite. Click [here](#).

We have a few new books that highlight insights of Unitarian Universalists of color. Of note:

Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry, edited by Mitra Rahnema and the Committee for Antiracism, Anti-oppression, and Multiculturalism of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

Come browse for gift books also for adults and children.

RRUUC BOOKSTORE



Save the Date: Special Meeting, January 28, 2018

We will have a Special Meeting for Members for the purpose of



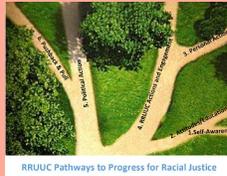
adopting a congregational covenant statement. The process for developing the statement began this week and it will be explored in our service November 12, 2017.

Member Voting Requirements
RRUUC bylaws provide that you must qualify as a "voting" member at least 60 days prior to a congregational meeting. To be a member in good standing and eligible to vote at this meeting, you must have:

- signed the membership book by November 29, 2017, and
- made a contribution of record to the operating fund within the previous 12 months.

Reverend Nancy, Gabrielle Farrell, and the Racial Justice Task Force ask you to save Saturday afternoon, January 20th, 2018, for a workshop to learn more about how we can find new ways to live together valuing our differences, redressing inequities, and supporting racial justice.

Remember when you were asked to fill in the blank: "To me, as a member of the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, racial justice means....." Over six weeks, 225 of us submitted 350 belief statements reflecting a passion and moral imperative to feel, commit, and act for racial justice. For the full results summary, please click [here](#).



If you are a Member, or a non-voting member, and haven't yet made a contribution of record in the last 12 months, please send your contribution to Diana Chimes, our Bookkeeper, or make a contribution to the Operating Fund online or through Text-to-Give. If you have been considering membership and would like to become a member prior to November 29, or have questions about your membership, please [contact](#) Sheri Blanchette, Director of Membership & Outreach, 301-229-0400, x102.

Staff News

Our New Accompanist, Shuai Wang

River Road is proud to announce the hiring of our new accompanist, **Shuai Wang!** Born in China, Shuai Wang began playing the piano at age of five. Shuai received the Bachelor of Music degree at Oberlin Conservatory, her Master of Music degree at University of Michigan, and is now pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at University of Maryland. She has placed in many piano competitions internationally, and has been a featured soloist in China, Canada, and at the Chautauqua Music Festival. Here in Maryland, she has played the Beethoven Choral Fantasy with the University of Maryland Chorus and Orchestra, will be the featured soloist with the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra this coming **Friday, December 1st at 8 pm**, playing Rachmaninioff's Pagandini Variations! Welcome Shuai!



Jessie Delaplaine joined us in the Spring of 2016, with the intention of helping us with rentals and scheduling until a permanent replacement for Michele Pittman was hired. A year and half later, Jessie is still part of our team, and as indispensable as ever! We'd like to take this moment to thank her, and to acknowledge the wealth of talent she brings to our administrative office, not only in all art and design matters but also in all things electronic, all this above and beyond what she is really here for, which is rentals and scheduling. We are pleased that she will continue to help us until we identify and hire our new Office Assistant in the summer.

Like Jessie, **Marcia Leonard** stepped in in the Spring of 2016 to take over the eWeekly and Sunday Order of Service and Bulletin, intending to stay for just a couple of months. She has also continued to give generously of her time, and is still continuing to provide first rate publications. Marcia has elevated both the process and the product, running the publications like an well-oiled machine. Marcia brings with her uncommon wisdom and insight garnered from many years of being a school administrator, and is also our office guru for all things A/V (her brilliance is well known throughout the congregation). We have been exceedingly lucky to have her, and continue to be enormously grateful!

Gabrielle Farrell, the Lifespan Religious Educator is working as staff liaison to the Racial Justice Task Force for the current calendar year on their related actions/work. Gotta question? Wondering about anything? If you can't find an RJTF'er, ask Gabrielle (email [here](#)) she can either answer or point you to the perfect congregant!

Upcoming Events - Other Places

DC VISITATION NETWORK THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

**Saturday, November 18,
3pm-5pm**

**Augustana Lutheran
Church, 2100 New
Hampshire Ave., NW**

Please join us for an afternoon of appreciation for the friendship that DC DVN volunteers and people in immigration detention have shared with one another over the past four years. We will socialize and get to know one another better, reflect on and give thanks for what we've accomplished together and for what our friends in detention have persevered through, and write messages of hope and caring concern to adults and children who will be in immigration custody this Thanksgiving.

IMMIGRATION FILM FEST

runs through December 12, in partnership this year with the International Cinema Series. Next up is **PERIPETEIA & TROPIKOS** **Saturday, Nov 18, 2:30pm** **The National Gallery of Art, East Building Auditorium, 150 4th St NW** **Washington, DC** Directed by John Akomfrah



New Staff Search

In recent years, the ministerial "portfolio" at River Road has been well-balanced between our two clergy. Among many other things, Rev. Louise has been the primary lead on pastoral care and community building while Rev. Nancy handles staff supervision and the overall direction of our social justice programming. As our leaders ponder the time in which we find ourselves, we imagine shifting some responsibilities so that we can be more nimble and responsive to the changing needs of our congregation and community. To that end, we are searching for a Minister or a Director of Justice and Community Building. This new full-time position will be the primary professional leader on both social justice issues and community-building programming for all ages.

Rev. Nancy, likely working alongside some additional part-time support, will become the primary lead on pastoral care while maintaining her responsibilities in staff supervision, worship and administration. Though she would never totally step away from the social justice mission of our congregation, she also welcomes the chance to build on all that we have begun alongside the leadership of a new colleague. Our new religious leader may be an ordained minister. They may also be a non-ordained religious professional whose training makes them uniquely qualified to serve in this social justice and community building portfolio.

We're weighing diversity of all kinds, reaching out to leaders across the country, and extending our search as broadly as possible so that our pool of candidates is as committed, capable and bold as our congregation dreams of becoming. Applications for the Minister or Director of Justice and Community Building are starting to come in now, so check back next week for more information about the timeline! Contact the hiring team [here](#).

We would hate to see you go, but if you wish to unsubscribe from the eWeekly Newsletter, please click the link below.



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More info and full schedule [here](#).

Meet Our Ministers



Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd
Senior Minister



Rev. Louise Green
Minister for Congregational Life



Dr. Alexa Fraser
Ministerial Intern

[Visit our Sermon Library](#)

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

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