



River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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eWeekly Newsletter: July 12 - July 21, 2018

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

Happening on Sunday, July 15

Summer: One service at 10am

Love Lifts Us

[Rev. Rebekah Savage](#)

Associate Minister, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville

The Sufi mystic Hafiz wrote, "I once asked a bird, how is it that you fly in this gravity of darkness? She responded, 'love lifts me'." When our strength fails us, where do we turn? How do we nourish ourselves and others to move towards spiritual centering?



Newcomers Brunch, 11:15am, Fiatfalva Room

Newcomers, come meet the ministers, enjoy a light brunch, get to know others new to RRUUC, and have your questions answered about our faith and congregation. If you are new to RRUUC, looking for a spiritual community, and are curious to see if you may have found one here, please join us for conversation and brunch. Activities for the kids. Gluten-free brunch options available. Let us know that you're coming [here](#) or contact [Sheri Blanchette](#). Drop-in welcome too!



The Ordination of our own Alexa Fraser
Save the Date and [RSVP](#)
Sunday, August 12, 2pm
RRUUC Sanctuary

We invite you to celebrate this joyous occasion in a joint service with members of RRUUC and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring. For questions or to volunteer to help with the event, please contact the [Ordination Committee](#).

Social Justice Giving

July's Designated Gift Organization is Anera

On Sunday, July 22, the RRUUC offering will be extended to Anera, an organization working on the ground with refugee and vulnerable communities in the Middle East. Christina Andeweg from Anera will talk briefly



Connect with us! There are so many ways.

Did you miss a service?

Catch up here:

Sermon

[videos](#) & [podcasts](#)

Want to know what's happening when?

[Calendar](#)

[Social Justice Calendar](#)

Something to announce?

[Newsletter submissions](#)

Request space for a congregational meeting:

[Room Request](#)

Something else?

[Contact Us](#)



Serving Together

Food Drive for South Lakes Elementary School

We are filling up Nancy's office once again to help the kids at South Lake Elementary School. Their need continues as the summer school program just started. Whether you

during the service about what Anera is doing and how the RRUUC donation will help some of the most vulnerable of the nearly 2 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Through the Social Justice Council, RRUUC has donated to Anera over many years. Anera is a leading development and relief organization operating in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza. Working with local groups and communities, Anera responds to economic, health and educational needs with sustainable solutions and humanitarian aid during emergencies.

Summer Religious Education MakerSpace, 10am



- Children go directly to RE classes on Sundays
- ~ TinkerSpace for Preschoolers meets on the Patio ~
- ~ Collaboratory for Elementary meets in Rooms 21-25 ~
- ~ MakerSpace Lab for Middle/High School meets in Room 32 ~

Interested in Helping in our Summer MakerSpaces?

We need people to be helpers in Elementary and Middle/High School MakerSpaces this summer. No prep needed. It's a fun way to contribute to the children and youth and be amazed at their creativity! Contact [Gabrielle Farrell](#) or [Beth Irikura](#).

Wellspring, a Spiritual Formation class, begins in September



"What will you do with this one wild and precious life?" asks the poet Mary Oliver. Wellspring is a 10-month program of distinctly Unitarian Universalist spiritual development incorporating five elements designed to balance a knowledge of Unitarian Universalist history/ theology with personal spiritual practice and engagement with the world. More info [here](#). The process requires the following:

- A commitment to daily spiritual practice
- Participation in a small-group community that meets 2x a month (2nd and 4th Wednesdays)
- Individual work with a spiritual director (a list is provided)
- Readings and resources for knowledge and reflection (access to a computer is necessary)
- Reflection and commitment to live out our values
- Attendance at an all-day retreat on September 29th
- Willingness to serve as a leader for future offerings

The cost of the program, available for members only in this initial offering, is \$100 and scholarship money is available. Leadership for this offering is provided by staff including the ministers. As we expect more interest than space available this year (we are committed to offering this class as well as the next levels each year) we do ask you to complete an application due by July 31st. This also allows us to build a diverse class with experience and longevity at RRUUC. To express interest and get the application, go [here](#) or send a request to gfarrell@rruuc.org.

drop off a single item on the list or can splurge and purchase several, it is all really welcome. Our continued giving counts as we strengthen our partnership with South Lake. I went to Whole Foods last week and they had a bunch of these items on sale! So into Nancy's office they went, ready to be delivered. Please keep it coming and maybe make it a habit to add a little something more for others to your grocery cart. Thank you so much! Rev. Kären

Anything on the list below is welcome!

- Juice boxes
- Beanee weenee,
- Single serving soups
- White chicken in water
- Fruit cups- single servings
- Applesauce- single serving
- Animal crackers bag
- Ramen soups
- Small cereal boxes
- Popcorn bags
- Mac and cheese boxes and single servings
- Nutrigrain or trail bars
- Small bags of rice
- Small bags of pasta
- Packages of crackers and cheese or crackers and peanut butter

Three Things You Can Do About Families Separated at the Border



Advocate for migrant justice and call for all separated families to be reunited.

~Go to UUSC.org, click on ACT NOW to easily send a letter to the White House and DHS protesting family separation.

~Go to raicetexas.org to make a donation to legal support for

Events at RRUUC



Black Lives Matter Vigil
Friday, July 13, 6:30-7:30pm
Corner of Whittier and River Roads
River Road supports the "Black Lives Matter" movement through public witness, action, education, and partnership. We invite you to join the conversation and work alongside us. Vigils are held monthly during the summer. The **August 17 Vigil** also begins at 6:30pm. We'll resume weekly vigils in September.

RRUUC Hosts the Unexpected Stage Company Performances run July 12 through August 5 Fireside Room



A Helen Hayes nominated professional theater, Unexpected Stage will present ***Be A Good Little Widow***, a drama with jokes! Buy your [tickets](#) and enter code **RRUUC** for a discount. Limited seating, so reserve now. There is also a Pay-What-You-Wish Preview Performance on Thursday, July 12 at 7:30pm. Check the ticket link if you're interested!



Water Ingathering, September 9 Mark your calendar with the return to two services (9:15 and 11:15am)

It's always nice to save some water from any place that is special to folks of all ages for the Ingathering Service. We'll kick off the new congregational year with a multigenerational service and reception for our ministers (one new, the other returning from sabbatical).

Other Events Here and There

[UUA General Assembly Highlights](#)

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. This year the event was held June 20-24 in Kansas City MO.

UU Silent Retreat at Dayspring Retreat, Germantown MD Aug. 31 - Sept. 2

Listen for the loving wisdom or the quiet heart. Retired UU minister Rev. Dave MacMillan has led many retreats, trained with Henry Nouwen and is a graduate of the Harvard Divinity School. Devoted to silent retreat since its inception in 1954, Dayspring (dayspringretreat.org) has 210 acres of rolling fields and forests. For information contact Rev. Dave at dmacmillan@uuma.org.

detailed parents and children.
~Vote in November to begin to change the policies.
~Contact [Sheri](#) if you want to be added to the distribution list immigration@rruuc.org for regular updates and calls for action.

Meet Our Ministers



Rev. Kären Rasmussen
Sabbatical Minister



Dr. Alexa Fraser
Ministerial Intern



Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd
Senior Minister
on Sabbatical until September

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