



River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Grow and deepen in Fellowship, Spirit, and Service.

eWeekly: August 2 - August 11, 2018

Sundays Animal Blessing Service, Serving Together Update, Alexa's Ordination, and more!

Visit our Website

The eWeekly has a new look!

It's week two for the new formatting tool from Constant Contact, our email software, and for the new look of the eWeekly. Thank you for your feedback! Do you have more you'd like to share? Let [Sheri](#) know what you think.



Sunday's Service, 10am *Can Creatures of Different Species Get Along?* *Animal Blessing Service* Rev. Kären Rasmussen, the Animal Ministry Team, and our animal companions

Join Rev. Kären, the [Animal Ministry Team](#), and our animal companions for this multigenerational worship service. With story and song, we'll talk about friendship and trust that cross the boundaries of species. Your pets are very welcome! Please be sure they are leashed or contained in a way that makes it safe and comfortable for everyone. Pictures of your pets are also welcome to be blessed!

Please note that the balcony is a pet-free area. Water bowls, poop bags, and hand sanitizer will be readily available.

Sunday Happenings



Meet Naan Pocen, Our New Membership Assistant

Say hello to Naan Pocen (pronounced Nan as in *Nancy*, and Pocen *poach-en*)! You'll see her on Sundays greeting with the Welcome Team, welcoming guests during Fellowship, and inviting newcomers to return, explore the congregation, and become engaged in congregational life. In this part-time role, Naan will have office hours on Tuesday and Thursday. She can be reached by [email](#) or phone the office. Read [Naan's bio here](#).

Joining Ceremony, Sunday, August 5, after the service

Recognize and celebrate your connection to your spiritual community by becoming a Member of RRUUC. If River Road has been an important part of your life and you've been considering becoming a Member, join us for this joyous occasion. If you are interested in knowing about the path to Membership, please contact [Naan Pocen](#), Membership Assistant.

Knitting Circle, Sunday, August 5, 11am, Fellowship Hall, Table with Yarn Centerpiece

Get a coffee or tea and join the circle around the table. We welcome all knitters and crocheters. You're also invited to the next evening Mindful Knitters meeting on Mon., Aug. 13, 7:30pm, Fiatfalva Room. Please RSVP to Martine Brizius. The meeting will be cancelled if planned attendance is minimal.

They're in West Virginia! Service Learning Trip, through August 10

22 RRUUC youth and adults led by Beth Irikura, Religious Educator for Youth, are in McDowell County WV this week to work with the people of Big Creek People in Action to make homes safer, warmer, and drier. In the evenings, they will learn about the rich culture of this rural Appalachian area. Watch [RRUUC's Facebook page](#) to get updates on their experiences!

Members and Friends Art Show, Fellowship Hall, through Labor Day

River Road Members and Friends of all ages share their two- and three-dimensional art in all media.

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

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 Chair, Joel Schrag.

Serving Together Update from Rev. Kären



Serving Together

A thousand thank yous for your generosity with our June/July food drive for South Lake Elementary School in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Bob Kulawiec and I took two very full carloads of food to the school in July and we'll drop one more load off in August.

During one delivery, Bob and I watched happy kids coming to school, yet so many of them are without enough food at home. We met with Claudia Handal, the Case Manager at Linkages to Learning, which is connected to the school. The organization assists students and their families by connecting them to services and resources that address the social, economic, health, and emotional issues that may interfere with academic success at school.

One service is obtaining and providing community resources such as food. During a tour of Linkages' space, we saw small bundles of food that kids can carry home with them. Every one of our donations, from juice boxes to granola bars, will be packed for the kids to use right away.

My thousand thank yous literally means at least a thousand snacks and meals for these children. You made a difference in their lives and it is so appreciated!

Here are our upcoming Serving Together projects:

August - Animal Ministry Team, August 26, 11:45am-2pm

Join in an all-ages, family friendly activity following the worship service and a Compassionate Coffee Hour featuring tasty vegan treats from the Animal Ministry Task Force. We'll make beds, toys, and treats to bring comfort to the animals at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter. Living at the shelter can be scary for the dogs and cats, and you can help to make them feel better by participating in the project. We'll make four different easy-to-assemble items for the animals, and you can rotate to each project station or stick with one you like. Come have fun and make a difference for the animals.

September

I'm looking for a one-time project idea to be held at River Road in September. [Email me](#) with your suggestions.

October - Rise Against Hunger, October 14, after the service

We have signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Rise Against Hunger to have another event just like the one we held in March. Come pack meals to help feed some of the world's hungry.

Congregational Care



During Rev. Nancy's sabbatical, **Rev. Kären Rasmussen** and **Alexa Fraser** are working with the Congregational Care Team to support us in the joys, sorrows, and transitions of our lives. If you would like to reach out for pastoral support, please contact them via [email](#). You can also call the RRUUC office and leave a message.

Annual Meeting Draft Minutes Now Available

Draft Minutes from the June 3, 2018 Annual Meeting are posted on the RRUUC website [here](#) for review and comment. (You must log in to view the minutes on that page.) Please send any comments to Holly Fluty Dempsey, Chair of the RRUUC Board of Trustees, by August 31, 2018.

Upcoming Events

August Events in Social Justice

Find August social justice programs and events on the [calendar](#).

Black Lives Matter Vigil, Friday, August 17, 6:30-7:30pm, corner of River and Whittier Roads

RRUUC supports the Black Lives Matter movement through public witness, action, education, and partnership. We invite you to join the conversation and work alongside us. We'll resume weekly vigils in September.

Pawsitively Helping Shelter Pets, Aug. 26

Extend the Offering for Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-being (MCPAW)

MCPAW is a nonprofit partner of the Montgomery County animal shelter. It provides life-saving veterinary care, enrichment for animals, and financial assistance to people who adopt special-needs pets. MCPAW works to decrease the shelter population (averaging 300 animals per day) by offering educational programs on responsible pet parenting and by providing pet food and low cost spay/neuter. Your generous donations will help expand the circle of compassion to include these worthy animals, who give us unconditional love and heart-warming companionship.

Wellspring, a Spiritual Formation Class Begins in September

Due to popular demand, second session offered!

Wellspring is a 10-month program of distinctly Unitarian Universalist spiritual development incorporating five elements designed to balance a knowledge of UU history/theology with personal spiritual practice and engagement with the world. As we expect more interest than space available, we ask you to complete an application **due by Aug. 31 available through the registration process**. Find more info and registration online under [Adult Spiritual Classes](#).

Water Ingathering, September 9

Mark the return to two services: 9:15 & 11:15am

It's 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).

Community

Last Call before the Curtains Come Down

Unexpected Stage Company Performances run through August 5, Fireside Room

Unexpected Stage presents *Be A Good Little Widow*, a drama with jokes! The production has been Helen Hayes Recommended on [theaterWashington](#). Buy your [tickets](#) and enter code RRUUC for a discount. Limited seating, so reserve now.

SURJ MoCo (Showing Up for Racial Justice, Montgomery County)

SURJ MoCo and other groups are organizing counter protests and events in response to the Unite the Right 2 Rally on Aug. 12. Get updates to provide support throughout DC that weekend [here](#).

BLUU (Black Lives UU) Ministerial Network Worship Invitation

The Summer Online Worship Series, *Black Being*, concludes with worship, Sun., Aug. 19, 9pm

We hope Black UUs and UU-adjacent folks will join us for the fourth and final installment of the series, *Be a Witness!* If you haven't already, join our Facebook group and/or join our [email list](#) for information and access to worship. Two monthly online services begin in September. We will be together each month in explicitly black sacred space on the 1st Thurs., 9pm and the 3rd Sun., 4pm via Zoom.

[View Sermon Video](#)

[Listen to Sermon Podcast](#)

[Send news to the Publications](#)

Deadline is Tuesday, midnight for that week. News is edited for clarity, brevity and style.

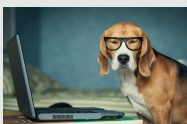
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[Social Justice Calendar](#)

[Contact the Office](#)

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We'd hate to see you go, but if you wish to unsubscribe from the eWeekly, please click [Unsubscribe to Sheri Blanchette](#).

STAY CONNECTED

