



**Unitarian Universalist Church of
Roanoke (UUCR)**

2015 Grandin Road

SW Roanoke, Virginia 24015

(540) 342-8888 | UURoanoke.org

Worship Services begin at 11 am.

November 2017 Newsletter

from the President...

A Recurring Theme

Every year, as the Service Auction draws near, the Auction committee becomes fearful that things are not going well. Donations are lagging behind. We are short on help, and the date has too many conflicts. Finally, just days before the event, the brochure is complete with lots of great items. “Maybe,” we say, “we will do fairly well.”

Auction day comes, and we spend the morning setting up. There is ample help. The decorations are in place, and look great. Everybody knows their responsibilities when the evening begins.

By 5 pm, activities begin to pick up. We announce the start of the Silent auction as we grab a glass of wine. At 6 pm, we start selling four sets of items live. By 8 pm, it is over. As the totals are added, the rest of us are returning tables and chairs to their rightful places. By 8:30, most of the people have paid and left. Exhausted and apprehensive, we are waiting for the totals. Sheri announces it is over \$14,000 for the second year in a row. Cheers, hugs, and profound relief. It had worked out after all.

The next morning, we email each other to confirm that we really did it. The following Sunday, we meet over good food and start planning for next year. What can we do better? What was left out? The soreness has gone away and our confidence is renewed. The old nursery rhyme about the little engines says it well: We thought we could, we thought we could, we thought we could; we KNEW we could, we KNEW we could, we KNEW we could !!!!

Thanks to all who participated. It was a hell of a ride!

Your President, Spike



from the Rev...

The science is solid on the human benefits of stopping with regularity to be thankful. We know that pausing once a day to "give thanks" for something leads to a more rewarding life experience. Science has caught up with faith in this regard. Faith communities have always understood the value of giving thanks.

Thanksgiving, the cultural holiday sorta mandating that we give thanks, is a favorite for many of us. I'd like everyone to love it as much as I do. Towards that end, I encourage each of you to ponder how you might make every day a little bit more like Thanksgiving. What might it look like if all of us greeted each new day saying today I give thanks? I'm betting it would be to the common good.

Whatever your attitudes or thoughts on giving thanks, I'm thankful for having each of you in my life. I am thankful for the many good and wonderful ways in which you grace my life - hard questions, encouragement, challenges, laughter, sharing, grieving, just to name a few. I hope for each of you more cause, and more desire, for daily thanksgiving.

I am convinced that the more a congregation gives thanks together, the more certain a congregation has fulfilling faith experience.

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

Much heart, RevAlex

Lifespan Faith Development News



Adult RE

Wednesdays | 7 pm: Fall Movie Nights, Olin Room

Two weeks left in our 2017 series:

Nov. 1st- *A Journey through Two Thousand Years of UU History,*
Long Strange Trip - Part 5

Nov. 8th- *A Journey through Two Thousand Years of UU History,*
Long Strange Trip - Part 6

Sundays | 9:30 am: *Living the Questions Class, Olin Room*

A new series begins on November 5th with the Lloyd Geering's book [Coming Back To Earth, From gods, to God, to Gaia](#). Geering writes that "the modern secular world, far from being the enemy of Christianity, is the legitimate continuation of the Judeo-Christian path of faith". The last chapter of the book is entitled *Moving Toward A New Form of Mysticism*. Join us for this intriguing survey of religious history, and learn where he believes the future of religion is headed.

Each participant is urged to purchase their own book. There will be a copy in the UUCR Library to check out. Everyone is welcome to attend and if you have any questions, contact [Gene Edmunds](mailto:gene.edmunds@gmail.com) - gene.edmunds@gmail.com

Children and Youth RE

Sundays | 11:00 am: Worship Service and Children's RE

- **Ages 0-3:** Nursery playtime!
- **Pre-K, The Rainbow Connection:** Understanding the 7 UU Principles through stories and activities. One more Rainbow Teacher is needed! See Volunteer link below.

- **Grades K-2, Dr. Seuss:** Life Lessons from beloved UU author, Theodore Geisel. One more Dr. Seuss Teacher is needed! See Volunteer link below.
- **Grades 3-5, Hogwarts:** Young witches and wizards using their powers for social justice.
- **Grades 6-8, The Twilight Zone:** Compelling questions for Today's World as Envisioned by UU, Rod Serling

Sundays | 5:00 pm: YRUU

Our youth-directed high school youth group. Schedule may vary based on weekly activities

Sunday Nov. 26th | 11:00 am: Worship Service - Thanksgiving

All RE Day: Kids' ornament-making with Anne Foulke

No YRUU. All youth are invited to Thanksgiving Service.

Intergenerational RE

Sunday Nov. 19th | 4:30 pm: Intercongregational visit to Shantiniketan Hindu Temple,

with UUCR and UUC NRV, youth and adults. Reception at UUCR at 3:30, then carpooling to 7221 Branico Dr, Roanoke, VA 24018 for Temple Sunday service.



All children and youth need to be registered to fully participate in classes.

Register Here: goo.gl/forms/USiJWRSrj4BgoLfN2

And please check out our **Online Volunteer Form:**

goo.gl/forms/eura8QFJkYE61oPh2

THANK YOU!

Alan Moore, Director Lifespan Faith Development

November Birthdays!



Margaret Klapperich, Sue Egbert, Bill Baker, Lydia Woerner, Bonnie Nelson,
Mary Boenke, Karen Dillon, Emily Marston, and Charlyn Griffin!

Anyone that has a November Birthday but is not listed please email connections committee.

The Green Team's Earth Friendly Friday presents...



TEAM *Off the Grid*, The 2017 National KidWind Champions

November 10, 2017

6:30 PM - Social time (snacks welcome)

7:00 PM - Program

KidWind team, *Off the Grid*, from Botetourt County, earned 1st place and the Judges' Award in the high school division at the SW VA Regional KidWind Challenge in the spring of 2017. As a result, the team was invited to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Convention and National KidWind Challenge in Anaheim, CA, to compete with teams from all over the United States.

When teams participate, they discover the promise and limitations of wind energy technology through an engineering design process. Fifty-six teams competed at the national level, and the team *Off the Grid* earned first place in the high school division to become the country's KidWind champions.

Beginning in November 2016, this team of five met weekly to learn more about renewable energy, and to design and engineer a small-scale wind turbine model. Their prototype ultimately set new records for energy production at all levels of the KidWind competition.

For more information on The Green Team visit our web page:

uuroanoke.org/we-are-on-a-mission/green-team

Shared Ministry Committee (SMC)

The SMC has discussed our supporting role for Committee goal-setting after setting our own goals (see bulleted list below). We will contact key church committees and ask them to share their main 3-5 goals with us by January 15. If they need assistance, we will try to provide.

SMC 2017-18 Goals:

- Conduct two town hall meetings and two listening circles annually
- Conduct online congregational assessment with Hartford Institute software and publicize results.
- Recommend church members to serve on SMC to replace members rotating off in 2018.
- Build an SMC webpage on the uuroanoke.org website.
- Evaluate The Art of Facilitation for support in process observation and facilitation services.
- Attend the board retreat
- Assist ministry teams and key committees with goal-setting

Listening Circles are scheduled for December 3, 7, 10. For further information about these topics and more, contact Lynn Yates at ljyates8@gmail.com



Caring Committee - Joys and Concerns

Contact Sally Garber with joys, concerns, or questions at jcssgarber@comcast.net.

If you have a confidential joy or concern, and would like to share with the minister, please put your request in the locked box on the podium located in the alcove next to the name tag board.

Kitty Shear -

Kitty fell at Peaks of Otter during a family gathering. She broke her wrist, and is having surgery on November 1st.

John Goodhart -

Keep John in your thoughts and prayers as he mends. Cards can be mailed to him at 111 West Church St., Rocky Mount, VA 24151.



THANK YOU to all our volunteers!

November 5

Life Lines - [Jane Harrison](#)
A/V - [Betsy Biesenbach](#)
Head Usher - [Jim Overholser](#)
Leader Greeter - [Lydia Woerner](#)
Coffee - [Ron and Robin Salzbach](#)

November 12

Life Lines - [Judie Lallmang](#)
A/V - [Adam Honeycutt](#)
Head Usher - [Judie Lallmang](#)
Lead Greeter - [Eileen Lapro](#)
Coffee - [Dennis McKim](#)
Recycling - [Mangala Kumar](#)

November 19

Life Lines - [Jane Harrison](#)
A/V - [Todd Hannabass](#)
Head Usher - [Multigenerational](#)
Lead Greeter - [Judy Robertson](#)
Coffee Team - [James Rosar](#)
Recycling - [Judy Robertson](#)

November 26

Life Lines - [Judie Lallmang](#)
A/V - [Bob Egbert](#)
Head Usher - [Alice Davis](#)
Lead Greeter - [Chris Yates](#)
Coffee - [Nora Smith](#)
Recycling - [Lorraine Fleck](#)

Intro to UU Volunteers

A big thank-you to Chris Yates, Lydia Woerner, Betsy Biesenbach, Aidan Jameson, Judy Robertson, Alan Moore, Alex Richardson, and Megan Brauch for your help with the **Intro to UU** class Sunday Oct 22. It was a team effort, and could not have happened without each one of you doing your part. I appreciate it so much. We had 11 adults and six children attend. Everybody enjoyed the experience, and left wanting more "connection". You guys are great! Nancy Brattain, Chair, Connections Committee

Are you Interested...

It takes a village to grow our community of faith, and volunteers are the heart of our village. We are here on this earth to help others, and there is always good work to be done. We need you!

- Teachers, youth advisors, childcare, adult programs
- Caring, connections, and community
- Building & grounds, technology, and Finance
- Food, music, fellowship, worship, and fun

Check out our [Online Volunteer Form](#) or write to aMoore@uuroanoke.org to start a conversation.



Upcoming Worship

05 November - *Beginning the Work, Again* with Rev. Paul Boothby

Every generation is called to challenge the insidious persistence of racial injustice as it manifests in their age. How do we understand the problem today, and what are the steps we must take? UU Congregations are taking seriously the call to confront the cultural phenomenon of White Supremacy. What does that work look like for you? Rev. Paul Boothby is a lifelong UU, and has served the church in Lynchburg for ten years.

12 November - *Emeritus!* with UUCR Presidents and RevAlex

Our congregation makes momentous institutional step forward today by conferring Emeritus status upon Rev. Kirk Ballin, UUCR's longest serving settled minister (1987-1999). We'll look back at the wonders of Kirk's service to UUCR. We'll also affirm our congregational commitment to ongoing, lifelong, relationship with Kirk. It is a Sunday to savor the goodness of what has been even as we make new commitment to future possibility.

19 November - *Annual Bread Communion and Chili Cookoff* with Alan Moore

26 November- *Thanksgiving Redux* with RevAlex

We stay focused on Thanksgiving in worship today. We'll revisit the centuries-old tale of how one particularly gracious tribe of Native Americans saved the necks of a bunch of immigrants. Come, come to linger in the goodness of Thanksgiving!

03 December - *Advent!* with RevAlex

It's a first Sunday of Advent in the Christian tradition. It's also a Sunday of new advents in the life of our congregation, the most important of which is new membership. Yes, more folk are choosing to belong to UUCR, and today we celebrate them as we also mark the beginning of our annual Winter Holidays Celebration. And to top it all off, a big surprise gift will be coming our way this Sunday! Come, come to join in congregational Merry-Making!



Recurring Activities

Action Advocates keeps UUCR up to date about issues currently under consideration in Congress, including a bill that would significantly affect national parks and monuments, funding for the endangered Children's Health Insurance Program, a bill to prevent the firing of the special council, and other issues about which you might wish to contact your legislators. On November 5th, there will be a table during coffee hour to learn about these issues and whom to contact.

Adult religious education classes are offered throughout the church year. Come join us and if you have any questions, contact Alan Moore.

- **The Fall Movie Nights** on November 1st and 8th starting at 7 pm will be the last two classes until after the first of the year. We will watch A Journey through Two Thousand Years of UU History, Long Strange Trip - Part 5 and Part 6th.
- **Living the Questions classes** are offered every Sunday from 9:30-10:30 am in the Olin room. Childcare will be provided. On November 5th, a new six-week series begins to discuss Lloyd Geering's book Coming Back To Earth, From gods, to God, to Gaia. Each participant is encouraged to purchase your own book. Contact is Gene Edmunds.

Child and Youth religious education classes are offered throughout the church year. See the LFD section and the website. **Youth group** meet each Sunday from 5-7 pm.

The Board Executive committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8 pm in the Olin room. Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Olin room, and are open for all to attend. All Board reports are due on the first Monday of each month.

The **Choir**, led by Music Director Kerry Morgiewicz has practice each Wednesday from 7-9 pm. On November 12th, the UUCR Choir will join with our UU Neighbors in Blacksburg to present three choral selections during their church service. The Folk Group Choir, led by Beth Caruthers, has practice on November 13 and 20th beginning at 6 pm in the Olin room.

The **Diversity Action Group** meets on the first Sunday of each month from 12:30-1:30 pm. Contact Barbara Smith with questions at barbdave@cox.net. On November 5th, we will meet in the Olin room.

The **Men's group** meets weekly on Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 pm in the Olin room for fellowship and lunch. On November 2nd, the group will meet in the Fellowship Hall. The group will not meet on Thanksgiving, November 23rd.

The **Women's group** meets on the first and third Thursday each month from 11:30 am-1:30 pm for fellowship and lunch. For more information, contact Bonnie Nelson at 540.588.1452. On November 2nd, the women will meet in the Olin room for a movie and discussion. The group will meet upstairs in the Broker room on November 16th.

Roanoke Rainbow Families & Forums meet each Thursday at 7 pm in the Broker room. There will not be a meeting on Thanksgiving, November 23rd. Contact Carolyn Eddlestein with questions.

Tai Chi and Meditation meet throughout the month, and all are welcome to attend.

- **Tai Chi (Qigong and Taijiquan class)** reduces stress, increases stamina, flexibility, coordination, balance, and much more. Students learn the move sequence of the Yang family style Taijiquan and much more. Your first class is Free. Classes are held every Monday from 6-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Alan Armstrong at alan@alan-armstrong.com
- **Vipassna Meditation Group** meets every other Thursday from 6:30-8 pm in the Olin room. Each meeting begins with a presentation on the factors that are called the 5 Hindrances and equally relevant while meditating and negotiating the conflicts of everyday life. No prior experience is necessary. Contact is Mary Ann Koch at mapkoch@gmail.com

Specific Upcoming Events

Recurring events are listed above. Visit the website for more information.

Thurs, Nov. 2

12-1:30 pm Caring Committee luncheon meeting, 2nd Helpings on Wm Rd
7 pm VADP meeting, Olin ([Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty](#))

Sat, Nov 4

Midnight Fall Back (time change)

Sun, Nov. 5

12:30-1:30 pm Climate Rally, Corner of Brandon|Grandin Rd.
12:15-1:15 pm M&M meeting, Broker

Tues, Nov 7

7-9 pm Caring Team meeting, Broker

Thurs, Nov 9

10:30 am-1:30 pm Genesis II Art Gallery change, Fellowship Hall

Fri, Nov 10

All Day Church office closed in observance of Veteran's Day
6:30-8:30 pm Earth Friendly Friday presents "TEAM Off the Grid,
The 2017 National KidWind Champion", UUCR Sanctuary

Sun, Nov 12

1-3 pm Non-Theists group presentation "Jesus and Paul: The First Two
Unitarian Universalists?" by Bill Bestpitch

Sun, Nov 19

3:30 pm Intercongregational visit to Shantiniketan Hindu Temple, meet at
UUCR first then travel to the Temple

Mon, Nov 20

3 pm Newsletter deadline

Thurs, Nov 23 and Friday, Nov 24th

All Day Church office closed, Happy Thanksgiving.

Tues, Nov 28

6:30-8:30 pm Shared Ministry Committee, Olin

02 December 17 - Hanging of the Greens - with All the UUCR Elves!

It's a Saturday to decorate our building for the winter holidays. Join UUCR's elves as we make more holy this place we call our religious home. Brunch will be served! Children will be most welcome! Come, come for the fun of doing together!

03 December 17 - Winter Holiday Capital Campaign Kick Off! The campaign kickoff will be for the kitchen, playground, and parking lot/driveway renovations. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite dish to share! Contact Spike Harrison with questions.



RevAlex Richardson

Email: ARichardson@UURoanoke.org | Mobile: (336) 471-5580
The minister can meet by appointment Sunday - Wednesdays.

Alan Moore, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Email: AMoore@UURoanoke.org | Mobile: (540) 818-4964
Office hours are Mondays 2:30-5:30 pm and other days by appointment

Kerry Morgiewicz, Music Director

Email: KMorgiewicz@uuroanoke.org | Home: (540) 989-3190

Megan Brauch, Congregational Administrator

Email: MBrauch@UURoanoke.org | Office: (540) 342-8888
Office hours: Mon - Thur. 9 am - 2 pm and Friday 9 am - 12 noon

Board of Directors

President	Spike Harrison	540-389-3054	harrisonspike24@gmail.com
President Elect	Cy Dillon	540-334-5089	cdillon@hsc.edu
Past-President	Jeannie Berger	540-915-1508	jeanniebb2016@gmail.com
V.P. Finance	Carl Reed	540-265-1861	Creed@uuroanoke.org
Board Clerk	Sheri Bernath	540-345-8115	writerwoman48@yahoo.com
Personnel	Laura Latham	540-556-6230	eljae08@gmail.com
Member at Large	Beverly Telfer	540-904-7271	bev_telf@hotmail.com
Member at Large	Claire English	540-343-7576	cenglish8@cox.net
Member at Large	James Rosar	540-641-1519	raamster540@gmail.com

Nominating Committee

Jessie McKeon	540-352-9683	jessiemckeon@gmail.com
Gary Crawford	540-362-1778	gary_crawford@cox.net

Ministry Team Leaders

Sunday Services	Bill Bestpitch	540-761-6566	william.bestpitch@outlook.com
Building & Grounds	Megan Brauch	540-342-8888	mbrauch@uuroanoke.org
Building Enhancement	Jane Haddad	540-774-7258	janehaddad@cox.net
Connections	Nancy Brattain	540-400-8283	nbrattain@cox.net
Caring Committee	Sally Garber	540-977-2215	jcssgarber@comcast.net
Green Team	Bob Egbert		canyonlake76@gmail.com
OUUT/LGBTQ	Jessie McKeon	540-352-9683	jessiemckeon@gmail.com
Reading Seeds	Amy Hatheway	540-580-6907	abowhead@hotmail.com
Sharing Ministry (SMC)	Lynn Yates		ljyates8@gmail.com

Additional Staff

LFD Administrator	Bonnie Evans	540-314-0595	bevans@uuroanoke.org
Church Assistant	Linda Wallis	540.342.6214	
Folk Group Choir	Beth Caruthers		betheo@yahoo.com

Copyright © 2017 Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke, all rights reserved.

We send regular emails to members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke with information on upcoming services, events, and community news.

