



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ROANOKE GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN 2021

Join Us As We Plant Seeds, Investing In Our Future

Finding people like you.

I was expecting to die. Then suddenly I was diagnosed correctly and health started returning. But somehow, despite family support, I'd lost connections to much else. Since I couldn't yet drive, my friend drove me to UUCR. Both of us were unsure of ever again joining a church. What "hooked" us and kept us coming back was the morning book discussion group, 'Living the Questions' (LTQ). This lively, sometimes irreverent group had us fascinated, laughing and learning a lot. Because of LTQ, we returned regularly and gradually found more things to do and appreciate about UUCR. –Bonnie Nelson

Working for Social Justice: The Racial Justice Committee

The Racial Justice Team is committed to building a racially just and loving world. Our mission is to facilitate the evolution of UUCR into an anti-racist congregation which sees racial justice activity as a natural expression of our religious values and beliefs. Through our programs we seek to promote an understanding of white supremacy and its consequences and to encourage active engagement in its dismantlement in our congregation and community. Through our Pledge to End Racism partnership with Williams Memorial Baptist Church, twenty anti-racism workshop leaders have been trained and over 100 congregants have thus far pledged to work daily toward transforming our community into a place that treats people of all races, ethnicities, and cultures with justice, equity, and compassion.

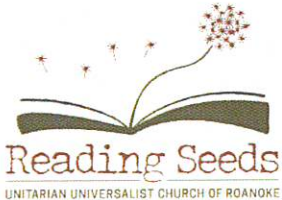


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The Law of Unintended Consequences can have both positive and negative effects on life plans. Moving to a new city leaving behind family and long established friendships is definitely negative. Stumbling onto UUCR in search of fellowship is rewardingly positive. The Church provides not only spiritual comfort but allows one to be informed of local social problems. The Church provides a framework for community service where needed by various methods according to ones ability. –Bob Cooper

UUCR's home-grown literacy program gives children from low-income families a better chance at reading success. Our volunteers work with TAP Head Start, a preschool and child care program that serves working families who live in poverty. Twice a month, we donate a new, age-appropriate book to 139 Head Start infants, toddlers and 3- and 4-year-olds to "seed" their personal libraries. Research shows that children with larger home libraries are more likely to become successful readers. We buy our books –significantly discounted – from First Book, an online resource for programs that serve children in need. Early in 2021, in the midst of the pandemic, we expanded our outreach to a second Roanoke Head Start site, and also added quarterly delivery of books to 594 pupils in four Roanoke city public elementary schools. –Ann Hackworth





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Kindness and Generosity, a first hand experience:

Robin and I would like to express our deep gratitude to the UUCR Caring Committee for their kindness and generosity extended to us, following my cervical spine surgery on January 7th. The assistance for the first three weeks following the surgery made a substantial difference in our day-to-day life, particularly considering Robin's additional responsibility for her 93-year-old mother. Caring is at the heart of a healthy community, and we are all truly fortunate to be a community of caring people. My alternative clerical collar is off for good as of January 18!

Thanks to everyone! –Rev. Kirk Ballin

Staying connected with those who need us: The Caring Committee

The work of the Caring Committee speaks to the Unitarian Universalist First Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person. When the pandemic hit last year we found ourselves limited to phone calls of support and cards of sympathy and congratulations. In the last several months we have begun to supply food to members and friends as they recover from surgery. These offerings have often been left on a side porch or bench as we continue to social distance. All of us on the Caring Committee are looking forward to when we can continue some of our other traditional activities such as rides to doctor's appointments and hosting receptions.



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Finding a place to grow.

The first Sunday I visited a Unitarian Universalist Church in 1980 I rushed home to share this incredible discovery with my family. We joined the next Sunday. The church has given me new perspectives, decades-long friendships, support during rough times, and opportunities to help others. The current enthusiasm within our church for exploring new ways to interact with the broader community is exciting and I look forward to being a part of that. —Louise Chagnon

Seeking Environmental Justice: The Green Team

The Green Team (GT) is the church mission group inspired by our Unitarian Universalist 7th Principle: "We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part". Since 2005, the GT has hosted the monthly Earth Friendly Friday educational program series in cooperation with the Sierra Club, and has held regular Climate and Clean Energy Rallies on our street corner. Also, through the GT, UUCR is a Partner of the Virginia Conservation Network. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources. (More about VCN here: <http://www.vcnva.org/>). Please continue to support our work". —Bob Egbert