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Rev. Jennifer "Jo" VonRue –
Senior Minister

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Beloveds,

I hope that this letter finds you well, warm, and taking some time to rest during this winter season. I am writing to give you details about my upcoming ministry sabbatical so that we can put your mind and heart at ease in my absence. I will be away from you and from the church beginning February 26th. On August 19th I will move into study leave as I prepare for the new church year, and at that time will be available for emergencies until my return to the pulpit on September 8th.

Sabbatical is a time for my professional and personal rest and renewal, a part of that means being completely away from my work. Therefore during this time, I will be completely out of communication with all members of the congregation. In my absence our Board of Trustees, in conversation with Stacy, Glenn, and Teri will lead this society with joy and love. If something should arise in my absence that they need help with, they will seek help from our UUA Central East Region Primary contact person, Alia Shinbrough. If you have a pastoral emergency you should contact the church office and Teri will direct you to one of three Ministers who will be on call for pastoral emergencies. These ministers are Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias (retired from FUUS, our former MRE), Rev Douglas Taylor (Minister in Binghamton, son of Rev. Liz Strong), and Rev. Karen Brammer (UU Utica).

The board of trustees have been informed as to what circumstances would warrant their contact of me while away. While I may be informed of certain things, I may or may not respond to any of them trusting in the leadership of this congregation. This congregation has come such a long way since we have been in partnership together, and I have every confidence that you can all handle what comes your way in my absence.

Sabbatical is a wonderful opportunity for you to experience many other ministers and worship perspectives while I am gone! While I am away, you will continue to see Glenn and Stacy on Sunday mornings helping our Worship Associates and guest preachers and artists to lead wonderful and engaging worship services. My final Sunday with you will be February 25th and my first Sunday back with you will be Sunday September 8th which will also be our water communion homecoming service and I hope to see many of you at both of those services.

My loves, you may not fully understand just how much I love you. I am going to miss you all very much while I am away. I am so excited to return rested and renewed so that together we can rise up and grow into the next best version of ourselves so that we might spread the incredible message of Unitarian Universalism.

I love you, and there is nothing you can do about it.

Rev. Jo VonRue

'We embrace all spiritual journeys and encourage service as we build a more loving and just world'