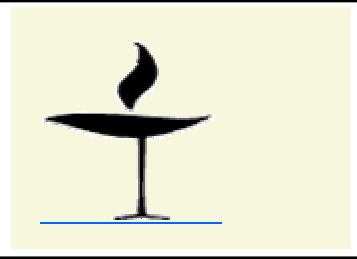


The Steel Chalice

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown, OH
Vol. 65, No. 2 February 2011



Matt's Musings



How do we face great sadness? How do we face sorrow that is part of disease, disability, death?

How do we face our own pain as we witness the rupture of civil society, violence, a sense that the world we know is decaying in on itself?

Writer and mystic Parker Palmer suggests that there exists what he calls the tragic gap. This is the gap between the way things are and the way they might be. This is the gap between a life limited by disease or disability and a life of health, or between death of a loved one and imagined future life with them. It is the gap between a strident, deadlocked government and one that is civil and functional; or between tolerance for random killings and demand for a peaceful, nonviolent society.

These tragic gaps separate reality from possibility. Palmer suggests that we must live in the gap, which brings on tension and discomfort. We cannot merely live in reality; for this is the place without dreams, a land of cynicism and hopelessness. Nor can we live fully in possibility; for this becomes a fantasy world, without sense or connection to what is real.

So we live in between, in the tragic gap; and we take in the pain and the fear.

According to Palmer (and this fits with my own experience), the fear emerges only when we risk breaking our hearts. He tells us:

"...there are at least two ways to understand what it means to have our heart broken. One is to imagine a heart broken into shards and scattered about -- a feeling most of us know, and a fate we would like to avoid. The other is to imagine the heart broken open into a new capacity -- a process that is not without pain but one that many of us would welcome. As I stand in the tragic gap between reality and possibility, the small tight fist of a thing called my heart can break open into greater capacity to hold more of my own and the world's suffering and joy, despair and hope." [*A Hidden Wholeness*, p. 178]

Writer and Jungian analyst Clarissa Pinkola Estes speaks of the heart breaking open in a different way. She writes, "There are other ways through a sadness that comes upon one as one sees the suffering world... one way is to put one's suffering to good use as you see fit. Suffering, like love, like hatred, like even tiredness, is energy that can be translated and used elsewhere." [Facebook, Jan. 10, 2011]

I think that we require a certain courage (from *coeur-age*, quality of heart) to choose to move toward the pain, and then pass through it, inviting the opening of the heart, the release of new energy, and the deepening of compassion. This passage may not be possible for everyone in every situation, but I do think we should strive for it when we are faced with great sadness. With our hearts opened, we become changed. I find such people a joy to be with, embodying a generous, wondrous spirit.

In Gratitude, Matt

SUNDAY SERVICES - 11 AM ALL ARE WELCOME.

JANUARY 30: "Free Will is Not Free"

Free will, the idea that we as beings are able to make independent choices, has been a topic of philosophical and theological controversy for millennia. Does the natural world offer or deny us free will? If we don't have free will, who or what controls us? Why should we be responsible for our actions? We'll consider a few of these questions from a Unitarian Universalist perspective.

Service Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associates: Ed Goist and Ivan Dementiev

FEBRUARY 6:

"Competition and Cooperation: Is There a Balance?"

Much in American culture, from No Child Left Behind to the capitalist economy, is based on competition as a driver toward some good end. Yet most of us cherish cooperation in our lives--within our families, workplaces, or this church--as we work toward common goals. Can we meld competition and cooperation? Does each have a place?

Service Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associates: Ben Barnes and Sarah Lown

FEBRUARY 13:

"Beatrix Potter: The Meandering Path of Life"

British Unitarian Beatrix Potter is remembered and loved for her small-format picture books for children; but she was also a farmer and a naturalist, who published groundbreaking work on lichens. We'll explore the meandering path of her life as a reflection on our own life paths.

Service Leader: Matt Alspaugh and

Worship Associate: Sarah Lown

FEBRUARY 20:

"A Lesson in Faith from The Reverend Billy Graham?"

As Unitarian Universalists, we are free, as well as challenged, to receive wisdom and insight from wherever we might encounter it. In matters of faith, UU's have a deep abiding faith together which serves us and the greater world. Yet, the question remains, "How faithful are we?"

Service Leader: Scott Randolph (see p. 2)

Worship Associate: Melissa Smith

FEBRUARY 27:

"Where in the World is Unitarian Universalism?"

Unitarian Universalism draws on many sources, including "wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life." But how might you locate Unitarian Universalism among all these different religions? Which are we most similar, which most different? Can we even make such a comparison? Stay tuned, this might be an introduction to a deeper exploration.

Service Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associates: Diana Shaheen and Audra Carlson

MARCH 6: "Breath"

Carole Ann Drick, who presented a wonderful Adult Forum in October, returns to be with us. Carole is one of early organizers and supporters of the holistic health movement in nursing as well as a known leader in holistic nursing. Carole Ann with co-author, Lynn Keegan, have published a new book, *End of Life: Nursing Solutions for Death with Dignity*. (October 2010).

Service Leader: Carole Ann Drick

Worship Associate: Kadey Kimpel

*** Indicates children start in the sanctuary

SERVICE LEADER – FEBRUARY 20

Scott Rudolph is finishing his fourth year of the Master of Divinity program at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Previous to entering seminary, Scott worked for Colorado State University as the Assistant Director for Corporate and Foundation Relations.

Scott currently lives in Hyde Park in Chicago, Illinois with his wife, Rebecca.

**ADULT FORUM
SUNDAYS - 9:30 AM-CHANNING HALL**

FEBRUARY 6:

“Highlights of the Health Care Reform Act”
Brian Selius will comment on major aspects of the Affordable Health Care Act of 2010 (Health Care Reform Act) and its implementation.



FEBRUARY 13:

The Social Action Team will begin discussions for implementing the All-Church Social Action Project. The team will examine options for a long-term and several short-term projects related to the goal of changing the way the Mahoning Valley eats.

The Social Action team is a self-selected group of UUYO friends and members who share our concern for social justice. All are welcome to participate in the team’s discussions and decisions.

FEBRUARY 20:

“Food Insecurity, Hunger, and Poverty”
Lowell Satre will lead a discussion about inequitable distribution of food. Historically there have been times of food abundance, including warming trends in Europe, followed by climate change -- cooling -- that caused a reduction in the ability to feed as many people. More recently the War on Poverty could have greatly reduced hunger in America -- but political shifts in priorities have postponed the day when we can end hunger as we know it.

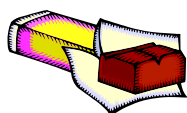
FEBRUARY 27: “Peace Activism in a Time of War”
Norma Anderson, a friend of the church and a long-time peace activist, will comment on the difficulties of promoting peace when wars are still all too common.



EQUAL EXCHANGE CHOCOLATE FOR VALENTINE’S DAY

With more than 50 million pounds of chocolate sold in the US during the lead up to Valentine's Day, the holiday is second only to Halloween in pounds of chocolate consumed. Traditional West African cocoa farms, especially in the Ivory Coast, are still rife with slavery, most tragically, with children.

For Valentine’s Day this year, make a pledge **NOT** to buy “big box” chocolate, no matter the price. Remember, the forced labor of children in Africa is what makes it possible for that price to be so attractive.



There is an alternative: Equal Exchange Fair Trade chocolate assures that there is no slavery in the production of its marvelously rich chocolate bars. There is a full range of tasty treat flavors for you to give as gifts (or nibble on yourself) for Valentine’s Day 2011.

**INTRO TO UU — 12:10 PM
FEBRUARY 13 & 27**

Visitors and new members are invited to join Rev. Matt Alspaugh for a short, relaxed introduction to Unitarian Universalism and to First UU of Youngstown.

Get coffee or tea and join us at the west end of Channing Hall. Matt will provide a few minutes of commentary and answer questions.

REflections

The children in RE have returned to their respective curricula after the holiday break and holiday season! There has also been a change in teacher rotations. Due to the Adolescent class being added, we needed teachers to facilitate that group. Wendy Pfrenger has taught several of the classes. Sarah Lown has also agreed to help teach the group. Sarah was on the roster to teach the Young Elementary class two Principles (5 and 6), so Audra and Jason Carlson have graciously volunteered to teach those two in her place. I am very pleased with our teaching volunteers. We have a great team!



Just a reminder to the Youth that we will have our first Youth Group meeting on Saturday, February 12, from 7 – 8:30. Please let me know if you are interested in attending. You can let me know by e-mail or talk to me at church.

Chinese New Year starts on February 3, and we need to shake the cobwebs off the Dragon! We will freshen him up on January 30 after church, and he will make his grand entrance on February 6. Because of this, we will start in the sanctuary 3 times this month--February 6, 13, and 27.

BeckyAnn Harker

2011 UUYO BOARD

President:	Karen Stangl
Vice President:	Karen O'Malia
Secretary:	Joan Bushey
Treasurer:	Joshua Corrette-Bennett
Finance Chair	Brian Selius
Trustee:	Larry Wire
Trustee:	Tim Raridon
Trustee:	Jim Rogers

PLEDGE UPDATE

55 pledges for a total of \$92,000

Please return your pledge card as soon as possible if you haven't already. For those of you who have, thank you for your generosity.

**MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Sunday, February 20, 2011**

As always, early submissions are welcome.



DREAM GROUP
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3 - 6-8 PM
UUYO Youth Group Room

A chance to explore as a group the insights and messages of our dreams.



Bring a dream to share.

Contact Liz Hill liz@lizhill.net if you have questions.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Women's Alliance will meet Saturday, February 12, at 12:30 PM.

Contact Margaret Haushalter for further information.



CHILI COOK-OFF

Come join the fun created by the Annual Chili Cook-off. We would like to have at least ten pots for the ultimate in tasting. Cook your favorite pot of chili to compete for one of the three top prizes:



1. Best overall chili!
2. Most unusual chili!
3. Hottest chili!

Date: Sunday, February 13
Time: 12:15 PM
Place: Channing Hall
Tasting: Cups and spoons provided

Ballots will be passed out for voting. Winners will be announced at 1 PM.

For those who don't care to contribute Chili, we will also need accompaniments such as corn bread, desserts, and salads. Sign-up sheets are downstairs. (Peg Tomm has volunteered to bring the tums.)

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:
SPIRIT OF LIFE

Every other Thursday 6:30 PM
February dates: February 3 & February 17

Spirit of Life is a small-group exploration of Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each session will explore a different aspect of spirituality, including topics like "Nature and Spirit," "Everyday Spirituality," "Celebrations and Rituals," and "Spirituality of Working for Change." This is a program developed by Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway (who developed a small-group ministry program called Evensong), and is a part of the UUA Tapestry of Faith set of curricula for adults and children.

Rev. Matt Alspaugh will lead this program. While participants are encouraged to attend as many classes as possible, each class can stand alone. Newcomers are especially welcome.

Childcare can be provided with advance notice.

NEWS - MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Member News



Please keep these members in your thoughts:

- Gloria Jones -- a fall
- Carole McWilson -- a fall on ice
- Rose Marie Wire -- surgery
- Mary Ellen Shutes -- continued cancer treatments
- Peg Tomm -- eye injury

Best wishes to these ladies for a complete recovery.

We also have a new member as of January 23:

Elizabeth Glasgow
613 Ridge Rd., Apt. 202
Newton Falls, OH 44444

Do you know of anyone who is in need of a card or a call? Please notify Luanna Jacobs, Chair, Caring Committee at 330.758.4142.

SOCRATES CAFÉ--WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

As you may have noticed in the Sunday programs, we're going to try something that sounds different called "The Socrates Café" at the Church. Actually, it's not all that different from what we UU's are quite used to - we're going to bring our minds together to discuss important things. How we go about it is a bit different. It's a process where we select the topic of the meeting when we meet, and we give everyone an opportunity to express their opinions, women and men, short and tall, etc., etc.

No one has to sign up, there are no dues, coffee or cookies (although no one who brings a cookie or two will be chastised). No attendance is taken. We meet at 7 PM at the Church on the first Wednesday of the month.

The leader will see that each person writes a topic for discussion that most interests them. The leader will read them all off to be voted upon. The two topics that receive the most votes will be voted on a second time to select the topic for the night.

From that point on, when a person wants to speak to the topic, they will so indicate to the leader of the night. The leader will see that each and every person will have his or her turn. One other rule--no one can talk for longer than one minute at a time. Ideas will flow like streams to a river. The goal is not to reach consensus. It's to think, discuss, laugh and ponder. Hope to see you there.

Roger Jones

CHURCH DIRECTORY 2011

Please let the office know if there are any address, phone number or email changes that need to be made.

STRETCH & CREATIVE MOVEMENT CLASS

TUESDAYS - 6 - 7:30 PM—CHANNING HALL

Classes include yoga, stretching, muscle strengthening/toning and creative movement with simple choreography.

Join us and take some time for yourself to focus on posture, breathing and the joy of movement.

Suggested donation to defray costs will be \$20 per month. Contact Susan Callen Miracle for further information.



COFFEE HOUSE-THE COCOA-MOCHA FAMILY FRIENDLY ENTERTAINMENT FEBRUARY 18 - 7-10 PM

On February 18, Cocoa Mocha will be meeting in Channing Hall at 7 PM to create Mardi Gras Masks and celebrate the season of After Valentine's Day and Before Lent. We will have an hour workshop in which Lynn Anderson will lead us through a brief history of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Mask and Celebration, and then guide us through the creation of our own Masks. Then everyone is invited to dance, feast, and be merry at our own high-spirited celebration.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP FEBRUARY 16 - 7:30 PM

For its Wednesday, February 16 meeting, we will discuss Jerome K. Jerome's Three Men in a Boat.

This classic is a humorous account of a holiday on the Thames between Kingston and Oxford. The book was originally intended to be a serious travel guide with accounts of local history of places along the route. But more often than not, humorous elements, introduced through stories, jokes, and pranks, take over.



BUILDING & GROUNDS WORK PARTY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 - 10 AM



Unless snowed out, we'll attempt to deal with whatever damage entropy and other troublemakers have inflicted.

Come out and help and enjoy the company. Remember there's always coffee and donuts.



FEBRUARY 2011



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

All events are held at the church unless otherwise stated.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	2 Socrates Café 7 PM CLM - 7 PM	3 Adult education class 6:30 PM Dream Group 6-8 PM	4	5
6 Sunday Service 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM CLM 1 PM	7	8 Board meeting 6:30 PM S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	9 CLM - 7 PM	10	11	12 Women's Alliance 12:30 PM Youth group 7-8:30 PM
13 Sunday Service 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM Intro to UU--12:10 Chili Cook Off WA meeting - 1 PM CLM - 1 PM	14 	15 S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	16 CLM - 7 PM Book Discussion Group - 7:30 PM	17 Adult Education class 6:30 PM	18 Coffee House Cocoa Mocha 7-10 PM	19 B&G Work Party 10 AM
20 Sunday Service 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM Newsletter deadline CLM - 1 PM	21 WPNA meeting 6 PM	22 S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	23 CLM - 7 PM UU Philosophy 7 PM	24	25	26 Tara Dance 1-3 PM
27 Sunday Service 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM Intro to UU--12:10 CLM - 1 PM	28					

ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2011

New Leadership

Board of Trustees for the upcoming year includes the “team of Karens” with Karen Stangl as president (one-year term) and Karen O’Malia as vice president (one-year term) while previous year veterans Joan Bushey (secretary, term ending in January 2012) and Joshua Corrette-Bennett (treasurer, term ending in January 2012) round off the executive committee. Brian Selius has agreed to a two-year term as finance chair, and we welcome him on board. Meanwhile Jim Rogers (one term remaining), Tim Raridon (two terms remaining), and Larry Wire (one term remaining) will continue on.

This year, just a few of the things we will be handling will include moving forward on the completion of the upgrade to our kitchen, the continuation of clarifying policies and procedures that guide “the happenings” of the church, continuing to participate in the Growth and Vitality Workshops for Small- to Mid-Size Congregations, as well as looking forward to fulfilling the mission and vision of our All-Church Project.

Outstanding Service Awards

It is the honor of the board to bestow this year’s outstanding service award to both Kadey Kimpel and Joshua Corrette-Bennett. Thanks to both of you for your dedication to the activities of this congregation.

All-Church Project Approved for Momentum!

The congregation unanimously agreed to focus their efforts behind an All-Church Project that promotes healthy eating, sustainable urban agriculture practices, and educational opportunities on these fronts for our youth in our community. The establishment of an All-Church Project stemmed from our opening, goal-setting workshop, in the fall of 2009 when Matt arrived as our consulting minister (one of the things we decided we “did well” was food!). The Social Action Team had been putting effort in since then to first create a process to choose a project, then educate the church community on options submitted before finally melting our three “contestant” projects into one we accepted.

One of the highlights of the finalized commitment is the numerous ways in which we can dedicate our time and talents to moving several important areas of this social action concern forward; the biggest of which is continuing to support the Northside Farmers’ Market that takes place right on our own front lawn. Be on the lookout for specific volunteer activities to come, as the potential for community outreach, social action and social justice in the realm of sustainable and ethical food provision is now our responsibility to Youngstown and beyond.

By-Law Change

The congregation voted to accept a change to the Church By-Laws that now better aligns our practices with what we have written in policy regarding the formation of committees within in the Church. To summarize, the previous paragraph established core committees with a board-appointed chair and a set number of constituents (5) who were charged with writing their own goal statements. This is not a practice we were following closely and did not allow for much flexibility when the need to form new committees, or teams to face issues, arose.

Under the newly adopted By-Law, and closer to what we find actually happens in various circumstances, the board can establish temporary committees or teams as necessary, based on the purpose and/or task at hand, and will continue to appoint chairs and monitor progress as before.

Thanks to all of your dedication, we’re looking forward to an exciting year here at UUYo!

Karen Stangl

THE PHILOSOPHICAL ROOTS OF UU FEBRUARY 23 – 7 PM

This discussion-based group will explore the philosophical foundations of Unitarian Universalism. We will begin by looking at early Christian views that were often found to be heretical, but which later formed the basis of the UU faith. The group will look closely at original texts and examine their philosophical import and relevance for the modern UU church. We will also consider how reactions to some of the popular doctrines of the day, like Calvinism, developed into UU beliefs. Further, we will discuss the UU thinkers that eventually became leaders in the transcendental movement. Some of the thinkers we will consider are: Arius, Origen, Calvin, Edwards, Channing, Priestley, Adams, Jefferson, Hosea Ballou, John Murray, Thoreau, and Emerson.



The group will be led by Matt Alspaugh and Alan Tomhave and will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

All are welcome.

TARA DANCE

Immerse your body, speech and mind in meditation through simple, powerful dance and chanting. The Mandala Dance of the 21 Praises of Tara, has been taught all over the world as personal practice and communal offering. The dance involves simple, graceful, tai-chi-like movements.



Cost: Students \$5, Adults \$10 (per session)

Saturday Sessions are:
February 26, March 20, and April 17 from 1-3 PM

For more information, contact Julie Thomas at jethomas@ysu.edu or leave message at 330.941.1735.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday
9 AM - 3 PM

First Unitarian Universalist Church

of Youngstown
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

1105 Elm St.
Youngstown, OH 44505 330-746-3067

office@uuyo.org www.uuyo.org

Time Dated Material

Staff:

Rev. Matt Alspaugh, Consulting Minister
BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education
Diane Thomas, Church Administrator

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LEADERS:

Board Members
Karen Stangl, President
Karen O'Malia, Vice President
Joan Bushey, Secretary
Joshua Corrette-Bennett, Treasurer
Larry Wire, Trustee
Tim Raridon, Trustee
Jim Rogers, Trustee
Brian Selius, Finance Chair

Committee Chairpersons
Martin Berger, Building & Grounds
Luanna Jacobs, Caring
Lowell Sate, Endowment
Betsy Johnquest, Hospitality & Membership
Pat Rosenthal, Nominating
Susie Beiersdorfer, Social Action
Judy Stone & Melissa Smith, Sunday Services
Diana Shaheen, Welcoming Congregation
Margaret Haushalter, Women's Alliance
Karen O'Malia, Worship Associate Coordinator

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to build a diverse and transformative spiritual community, help people live lives of wholeness, and promote justice, peace, and religious freedom.

Unitarian Universalist Association Principles and Purposes

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalists Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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