

MATT'S MUSINGS



UUYO is starting to buzz with activity as summer comes to an end. Sundays have been rich, with lots of new faces, and returning ones too. Our Monday Universal Cafes have been well attended and stimulating; and the Saturday Farmers' Market remains the place to meet, greet, and treat yourself to healthy, delicious items.

As fall approaches, we move back into the Sanctuary for Sunday worship; our Religious Education program ramps up, with four (yes, four) class groups for children and youth (see BeckyAnn Harker's article). And our Adult Religious programming ramps up too! I've been delighted with the Adult Education programming we've seen here at UUYO! We have a variety of classes and programs up and running, all open to newcomers.

Some of these include **Socrates Cafe**, a fast-paced topical discussion group organized by Roger Jones (first Wednesday of the month, 7 PM); the **UU Philosophy Group** co-led by Alan TomHave and myself (fourth Wednesday of the month, 7 PM); the **Dream Group**, started by Karen O'Malia (Sept. 1, 6 PM); and the ongoing **Book Discussion Group** (third Wednesday, 7:30 PM). And, while it is not really a "class," our **Harpichord Group**, led by Wally Mayhall and Marcellene Hawk Mayhall is providing a common focus for woodworkers/wood finishers/artists and music buffs (Contact Wally, [330.746.0390](tel:330.746.0390)). These are all ongoing, "drop-in" programs and have no fees.

I really love how these co-led or lay-led classes have emerged. This is Shared Ministry at its best! I enjoy working with other teachers and leaders in creating and leading groups and classes. I'm hoping some of you might have program ideas you'd like to work on. Here are some class/program possibilities I'd love to explore with some of you:

- A discussion program from the Northwest Earth Institute, such as their "**Choices for Sustainable Living**" and "**Voluntary Simplicity**." These might connect nicely with the Green Sanctuary program and our All Church Project.
- A **Resilience Circle**, a part of a nationwide program, also called Common Security Networks. A Resilience Circle is a group focused on sustainability and helps people cope and survive in tough economic times; it could be particularly helpful as the recession threatens to deepen.
- A spiritual deepening group perhaps based on Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Hallway's **Evensong** small group gatherings.
- A **UU Parenting** group, with childcare provided. This is a great idea suggested by BeckyAnn Harker, DRE.

I'm certainly open to other ideas and explorations. Another idea we're floating is a **Hidden Talent Show**, inviting you to bring forth your musical, dramatic, creative talents that we might not even be aware of. We've also been dreaming of a **UUYO Church Weekend Retreat**, for individuals/families of all ages, perhaps in the spring.

If any of these ideas spark interest (or they seed great ideas of your own), please talk with me or Becky. The essence of shared ministry is that we work together to create things that are bigger and better than what we can do individually.

See you in church! Matt

SUNDAY SERVICES - 11 AM

CHANNING HALL
 ALL ARE WELCOME.

Aug. 28: "Precious Human Life"

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

The Buddhists speak of the concept of "precious human rebirth" as the exceedingly rare gift of being born human. Even for those of us who don't believe in rebirth, rather we only go around once, existing as a human being is a precious gift. How do we honor this gift? In our busy lives, how do we remain aware?

Worship Associate: Audra Carlson

Sept. 4: "Callings: Finding Purpose and Passion"

Worship Leader: Julia Fuhrman Davis

Julia Fuhrman Davis, author of *WAKING UP and Changing My Life*, will speak on how the Unitarian Church helped her get started on her spiritual journey and find her calling. *WAKING UP* will be available for purchase after the service.

Our children will begin in Religious Education.

Worship Associate: Ben Barnes

Sept. 11: "Fire and Water"

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

This is our annual Ingathering Water Service; and people are invited to **bring a small amount of water from home**, travels or meaningful events. We will mingle the water with that of others. At the same time, we contrast with remembrance of 9.11.01, of fire and our nation's fiery response to those attacks. How do we balance water and fire?

Children will be a part of this multigenerational service.

Worship Associate: Diana Shaheen

Sept. 18: "Survivor"

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

It's a dog eat dog world. Every man for himself! How do we survive in a zero-sum world, a world that seems to be getting harsher by the day? We'll explore what it means to survive, and perhaps even thrive, in these economically stagnant, politically turbulent times.

Our children will begin in Religious Education.

Worship Associate: Kadey Kimpel

Sept. 25: "There's a Crack in Everything"

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

"That's how the light gets in," so Leonard Cohen tells us, borrowing from a story by Rachel Naomi Remen. We explore the possibility of gratitude for everything, even the imperfection in our lives.

This service includes our Bread Ritual: you are invited to **bring a loaf/quantity of any particular type of bread** that is significant to you, your family, or your heritage, for an offering. Following the service, we will have a Soup and Bread lunch (using that bread!) which will serve as a launch for our Annual Stewardship Campaign to fund the work of the church.

Our children will start in the service and then leave for Religious Education.

Worship Associates: Karen Stangl & Brian Selius

Oct. 2: "Extreme Interconnection"

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

When we try to understand the world, we often oversimplify -- we divide things into parts and look for direct cause and effect. In doing so, we tend to lose deeper understanding of the world in all its chaotic, emergent, and interconnected nature. How can look at the world with different eyes?

Worship Associate: Melissa Smith

ADULT FORUMS

Sept. 4

"Men (and Women) in Support of One Another"
Michael Dorfi, A Youngstown native, naval frogman, retired elementary teacher/mentor, husband, father, and member of the UUMF (Men's Fellowship) of First UU Church of San Diego, is visiting Youngstown in early September to attend his 50th high school reunion. He will share his enthusiasm for support groups at our first Adult forum of the new church year. Don't miss it!

Sept. 11

"Why Do We Have Mass Killings?"
Allen Pierce, a member of our church and on the Criminal Justice faculty at YSU, will talk about why we have mass killings, such as the recent one in Norway, the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007, and the Washington, DC, sniper attacks of 2002.

Sept. 18

"Need to Give a Talk?"
Art Hewitt, a member of our church, has belonged to Toastmasters for many years. He will describe the club and how it helps members develop public speaking skills.

Sept. 25

"Satre Bicycle Trip in Spain and France--Part One"
Ellen and Lowell Satre will show photos and talk about their recent tandem bicycle adventure which began in Barcelona, Spain. They will take you to Catalonia, southern France, and Corsica.

INTRO TO UU

On Sept. 11 just after the service, we'll have a short presentation and discussion about Unitarian Universalism, UUYO, and you. This is a particularly useful gathering for visitors and newcomers. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join us in Schweitzer Lounge, for this 20-minute presentation, led by Rev. Matt Alspaugh and Carole McWilson. We plan to hold these Intro to UU meetings about once a month -- hope to see you there!

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE 2012

Greetings, Fellow UU's! Since January I have had the honor and privilege of serving on our Board. It has been a personally, intellectually and spiritually enriching experience for me. But now I need to get to work! As Finance Chair I am charged with organizing the 2012 Stewardship Drive.

As a newer member I am always impressed by the energy so many of you put into this church. From coffee hour to coffee sales, from building and grounds to groundbreaking programs and music, UUYO thrives.

Beginning with the Stewardship/Pledge Drive "kick off" Sept. 25 and commencing with a celebration Sunday Nov. 6, the church will be asking us to contribute a different kind of energy. The kind that keeps the heat on and the water flowing, supports our ministry and RE, and gives life to our social action. Yes, you guessed it, money.

In the few years I have been involved with UUYO, I have witnessed a very positive transformation in our organization. Let us build on this further to create a brilliant beacon of our seven principles. Let us not simply keep our doors open but truly open our doors!

Stay tuned, more to come. Thank you for your time and attention. Please send comments, thoughts and suggestions to bselius@yahoo.com or call me at [330.965.0840](tel:330.965.0840).

Yours in Service, Brian A. Selius, Finance Chair

Reflections

Welcome back to the Church Year! I hope everyone had a great summer!

We have a great year planned. There is an additional classroom to accommodate our Preschoolers and Kindergartners. We are planning more intergenerational worship services, in which our children and youth will be more involved. We will continue with some of our old traditions while trying to start some new ones!

The official church year for kids and adults starts on **Sunday, August 28**. We will begin up in the Sanctuary that day, but will be sung out to class. Each classroom will have 3 different teachers who will be rotating, one at a time, changing each month.

The classes and curricula are as follows:

PreK/K- (ages 3 - Kindergarten)- "Storytime." The children will start in the nursery, but will move to the adjoining room for a story and related activities.

Young Elementary- (Grades 1-3)- "Moral Tales." This is a curriculum put out by the UUA that uses stories highlighting our Principles and doing related activities that lead to good, ethical decision-making.

Intermediate- (Grades 4-7)- "Riddle and Mystery." Also a curriculum put out by the UUA, it introduces life's big three questions: "Where do we come from?" "What are we?" and "Where are we going?" among others.

Adolescent- (Grades 8-12)- "Compass Points." This curriculum was begun last year, and we will continue with the second half this year. It is a curriculum which guides the youth on a spiritual journey in which they have opportunities to explore their identities, their beliefs, their Unitarian Universalist faith, their relationship with others, and their connections to the world.

We are sure to have a great year!

--BeckyAnn Harker



NORTHSIDE FARMERS' MARKET SATURDAYS FROM 10 AM - 1 PM

Location: First Unitarian Universalist Church

- Fresh local and regional produce
- Locally prepared value added products
- Baked items
- Healthy food and snacks
- Cooking demonstrations and samples
- Recipes for how to prepare local foods
- New ways to prepare vegetables
- Community Yard Sale
- Live Entertainment

We accept WIC farmers' market coupons (produce). We also accept EBT Ohio Direction Card (Snap Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

DOWNTOWN FARMERS' MARKET TUESDAYS FROM 12 - 3 PM

Location: Market St. at Federal Plaza
For more information, contact Jim Converse, Market Manager (330.518.6971).



BITS FROM THE BOARD

Welcome back to the Sanctuary! We had wonderful turn-outs and discussions during our Summer Universal Cafe series--with several new faces from the community in attendance, as well as continued support from our congregation.

This summer was a busy season at UUYO, and we have lots of news to share: First, let's congratulate Jim Rogers for creating the winning logo design for our church! His was chosen from the anonymous submissions by a panel of two art and design-educated judges from the community, and our minister. You'll notice it today on the front page of our newsletter and to the right--keep your eyes open for it on other items and publications in the future. The idea to use a new logo and other innovative marketing tools is just one of the most recent set of 6-month goals achieved by the Growth and Vitality team.

The regional fall meeting for small-midsize congregations will be held the weekend of September 16-17, this time in Wooster, OH.

The board would also like to announce that Carole McWilson has taken the helm of the Chalice Team, which will be working on aspects related to new membership and involvement in the church community. Thank you, Carole!

You may notice, if you haven't already, that the "facelift" of the Channing Hall kitchen has already begun. We are on track to have the painting and new countertops, floor and island completed by late September. New (and newly placed) cupboard and drawer handles have already been installed (thanks, Martin Berger) and not only look fantastic, but they give continuity and complement the design of Channing Hall.

The end-of-September completion of the kitchen project is in anticipation of two important events. First, on September 24, UUYO will be host to the Ohio-Meadville District's Leadership Conference, "Leadership for the Next 50 Years" where lay leaders and ministers from all over our district will participate in a day-long session of thinking toward the future. Thank you to Jan Schnall, who has agreed to aid the district in the planning and setup for this event on behalf of UUYO.

Second, the Sunday of September 25 will be the kickoff of our Stewardship Campaign for 2012, with a bread service dedicated to this topic, followed by a soup-and-bread luncheon during Coffee Hour. It's a great way to celebrate the completion of our renovation undertaking, by giving thanks and looking toward the future. Our Finance Chair, Brian Selius will be leading us through the FORTH program, a new approach to stewardship; and Rev. Matt, the board and other lay leaders will be assisting concurrently via a program called Gathered Here, both of which you can find more information on in upcoming announcements or on the UUA website.

I am also excited to have seen so many visitors attend our well-crafted Summer Sunday Services. As we transition "back upstairs" for the fall through spring seasons, let's remember to extend our welcoming generosity not only to our visitors but to the community at large with our fall series of three "Give-Away-The-Plate" Sundays. As in the spring, suggestions for community partnerships or support can be submitted to the Social Action Team (Steve Oravec, chair), for consideration as recipients for the collections on three Sundays this fall. The overwhelming generosity from our congregation was greatly appreciated by the previous recipients.

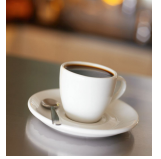
Feel free to contact me, Karen Stangl, Rev. Matt or any of the other Board Trustees for more information or how to get involved in the exciting initiatives mentioned above. I look forward to a generous, prospering and "growing" season--the Farm-to-Family Farmers' Market- now runs through October.

See you soon, Karen Stangl



EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Hello loyal customers and lots of new folk! Our coffee sales during the Saturday Farmers' Markets have been going very well, thanks to a cadre of devoted volunteers and the shoppers who enjoy our marvelous Fair Trade coffee.



We have been marketing Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and snack products from Equal Exchange for many years. Fair Trade is a way of doing business that keeps small farmers an active part of the world marketplace and empowers consumers to make purchases that support their values. Among other things, it raises and stabilizes the incomes of small-scale farmers, farm workers, and artisans, and promotes safe and sustainable farming methods and working conditions.

You can join us in supporting small farmers, and making a contribution to the church and to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, by visiting the Coffee Cart on Sunday mornings and buying your coffee, tea, and chocolate from Equal Exchange.

We have some exciting new news. This fall we hope to participate in Equal Exchange's "Growing Coffee Sales Program," in which one type of coffee will go on sale for \$1.00 off the regular price during each month. For about the past year we have been purchasing an occasional box or two on sale, but now we will pass the sale price on to YOU, the individual customer. We already know that September's featured coffee will be French Roast, which is a popular dark roast. Our overall hope, and that of Equal Exchange, is to increase the coffee sales for the small-scale farmers. Let's be enthusiastic partners in that effort!

With a tip of a cup of Fair Trade coffee,
Ellen Satre and the whole Equal Exchange team

MISS THE BBQ & BROADWAY?

We had a great auction at the BBQ event, and there are still some items available. Contact Sarah Jordan at [330.423.7339](tel:330.423.7339) or jordan.182@osu.edu to purchase or for more info.



1) portrait sitting & photo package by Karen O'Malia --\$60

2) Beers of the world tasting with Ed and Laura Goist, Liz Hill, and Matt Alspaugh on September 4 at 4 PM --\$25.

Thanks, Sarah Jordan.

SOCRATES CAFÉ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 - 7 PM

All are welcome. We're bringing our minds together to discuss important things. We select the topic of the meeting (by a vote) when we meet.

Discussion is fast paced as each person is only given a minute to make his or her point and then we move on.

The goal is to think, discuss, laugh and ponder.

Roger Jones

**WOMEN'S ALLIANCE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

Women's Alliance will have our first meeting of the year on Saturday, September 10, at 12:30 PM. Place is the Selah Restaurant, 130 S. Bridge St. in Struthers.



All women of the church are welcome, and we especially welcome new faces.

For further information, contact Margaret Haushalter at 330.757.8979.

WEEKLY UPDATE

If you are not receiving the weekly update every week informing you of what's going on at the church that week and would like to, please contact the office at 330.746.3067 or email at office@uuyo.org.

All we need is your email address, and you will receive this update every Thursday.

**OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

NEWS - MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



In Our Thoughts:

Jack Brizzi is out of rehab and back home. He would appreciate visits and cards or calls.

Nanette Kaplan Solomon was in a bike accident and broke her ankle. She had surgery on Thursday, August 25. Keep her in your thoughts.

Do you know of anyone who is in need of a card or a call? Please notify Luanna Jacobs, Chair, Caring Committee ([330.758.4142](tel:330.758.4142)).

OFFICE HOURS

STARTING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday -- 9 AM - 3 PM

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This group is meeting on Tuesday nights at the church at 7 PM in Schweitzer Lounge.

September 2011

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

All events are held at the church unless otherwise stated.

				1 Dream Group 6-8 PM	2	3 Farmers' Market <u>10-1</u>
4 Sunday Service <u>11 AM</u> Adult Forum 9:30 AM CLM - 1 PM	5	6 AA meeting <u>7 PM</u> S&CM class <u>6-7:30 PM</u>	7 CLM - 7 PM Socrates Café 7 PM	8	9	10 Farmers' Market <u>10-1</u> Women's Alliance <u>12:30 PM</u> Grey to Green Festival - <u>12-5</u>
11 Sunday Service <u>11 AM</u> Adult Forum <u>9:30 AM</u> Intro to UU <u>12:15 PM</u> CLM - 1 PM	12 Manjushri Study Group-5:30-7:30	13 AA meeting <u>7 PM</u> S&CM class <u>6-7:30 PM</u> Board meeting 6:30 PM	14 CLM - 7 PM	15	16 Cocoa Mocha 7-10 PM	17 B&G work party <u>10 AM</u> Farmers' Market 10-1
18 Sunday Service <u>11 AM</u> Adult Forum <u>9:30 AM</u> CLM - 1 PM	19 <u>Newsletter deadline</u> WPNA meeting <u>6 PM</u> Manjushri Study Group-5:30-7:30	20 AA meeting <u>7 PM</u> S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	21 CLM - 7 PM Book Discussion Group--7:30 PM	22	23	24 Farmers' Market <u>10-1</u> OMD Leadership Conference
25 Sunday Service <u>11 AM</u> Adult Forum 9:30 AM CLM - 1 PM	26 Manjushri Study Group-5:30-7:30	27 AA meeting <u>7 PM</u> S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	28 CLM - 7 PM UU Philosophy 7 PM	29	30	

**BUILDING & GROUNDS WORK PARTY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 10 AM - 1 PM**

There's much work to do both inside and outside. Come out and help and enjoy the company.



GRANT FOR COCOA MOCHA

The Welcoming Congregation Committee is pleased to announce that we are the proud recipient of a neighborhood grant for \$1560 from the Raymond John Wean Foundation for programming for our Cocoa Mocha Project.

One of the programs we are proud to sponsor is Dreams of Hope, a performing arts group created by and for Queer Youth and Allies. They will be performing at the UUYO on Saturday evening, October 22; time to be announced. Please mark your calendars, and let's show our support for our BLGTQ community.

Thank you, Diana Shaheen.

COFFEE HOUSE-THE COCOA-MOCHA

Cocoa Mocha will meet on Friday, September 16, from 7-10 PM.

Cocoa Mocha is a family-friendly gathering that provides a safe space for all BLGTQ youth and allies. We get together every third Friday of the month in Channing Hall for workshops, music, dancing, and good food.



STRETCH & CREATIVE MOVEMENT CLASS

Tuesdays - 6 - 7:30 PM---Channing Hall

Classes include yoga, stretching, muscle strengthening/toning and creative movement and 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. Call Susan Callen Miracle.

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 - 7:30 PM**

we will be discussing Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver.



UUYO DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The updated directory is on the website. The password to access the directory is youngstown.

**THE PHILOSOPHICAL ROOTS OF UU
SEPTEMBER 28 - 7 PM**

This discussion-based group will explore the philosophical foundations of Unitarian Universalism. The group will look closely at original texts and examine their philosophical import and relevance for the modern UU church.

The group will be led by Matt Alspaugh and Alan Tomhave. All are welcome.

DAVID E. CAMPBELL

David E. Campbell, co-author of *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*, will speak on Wed., Sept. 21, 2011, at 12:30 PM, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave., as part of the Shipka speaker Series of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at YSU.

The talk is free and open to the public. Rev. Matt Alspaugh based his August 21 sermon on the book.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

Mahoning Valley Association of Churches presents a Service of Reconciliation, Sunday September 11, 2011, at 2 PM in Butler North (Parking in Lot F-1 at YSU, Wick Ave and Spring St.).

The interfaith service includes prayers from Buddhist, Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths and music by the Youngstown Connection.

It will introduce the work of the Interfaith Youth Core on the campus of YSU. Several UUYO members, including Gary Davenport, Molly Toth and Sarah Lowry, are active participants in this new program, which encourages interfaith dialogue while doing social justice work.

Free-will offering at the event. For questions or information, contact Liz Hill liz@lizhill.net, [330.333.1619](tel:330.333.1619).

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, tai-chi-like movements.

Summer and Fall Dates: (come rain or shine!)
Sept. 25 & Oct. 23

12-2 PM at Gazebo or Kidston Pavilion at Fellows Riverside Gardens, 123 McKinley Ave., Yo.

Fee: \$5 for students; \$10 for adults (per session)
For more information, contact Julie Thomas at jethomas@ysu.edu or leave message at 330.941.1735.

**DREAM GROUP -THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
6-8 PM - YOUTH GROUP ROOM**

This is 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.

**BUDDHISM IN A NUTSHELL - PART IV
MONDAY EVENINGS 5:30-7:30 PM**

Dates: Sept. 12, 19, 26 and Oct. 3

This FPMT study program presents basic Buddhist philosophy and principles with the Tibetan Mahayana context, and provides simple meditation instruction. It also includes audio recordings, readings, and discussion questions.

Suggested donation: \$10 per session or \$5 if you are a student or laid off. All are welcome. You do not have to be Buddhist to attend!

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
Art Hewitt & Ralph Malmer, Green Sanctuary
Pat Rosenthal, Nominating
Susie Beiersdorfer, Social Action
Judy Stone & Melissa Smith, Sunday Services
Diana Shaheen, Welcoming Congregation
Margaret Haushalter, Women's Alliance
Sarah Lown, 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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