

MATT'S MUSINGS



At our congregational meeting this month, you will be asked to consider whether you want me to serve as your called minister. As your minister, I will report to the congregation, rather than the board; and my term of service will be open ended.

How will my role change as a called minister? I will increasingly take the long view regarding the life and health of UUYO. We've moved from setting one-year goals for ministry to exploring long-term visions for the ministry and congregation at the Roundtable Discussions and the Vision Workshop last fall. I will be more engaged in the long-term support and spiritual development of people who serve the congregation as leaders and in other roles.

My own vision is that UUYO will shine more brightly as the beacon of liberal religion in the Mahoning Valley. That more of the 400,000 or so people in our area will discover us -- people who yearn for life-giving religious community where they may explore their heart's calling without being walled in by narrow doctrine or creed. That we encourage healthy practices and a vibrant church culture that allow people to work together in our church community successfully and with great joy. That we continue our work for social justice in our region through Farm 2 Family and numerous other projects, and develop strong ties to other UU churches and organizations.

"I learn, by going, where I have to go," Roethke tells us, and such learning is my own great joy. You've likely realized that I am an experimentalist; I try things, I suggest others try things, and quickly make adjustments to improve things or even abandon those that are not working. This applies to my own spiritual beliefs and practices, as well as to things we do together as shared ministry in all areas of church life.

Here's an experiment -- a little exploration in personal spiritual practice. As part of my own practice, I have been using a book of daily inspirational readings called "The Book of Awakening" by poet and teacher Mark Nepo; and I invite you to join me. The book consists of short essays along with questions for meditation or reflection. If you want to explore the book, at least the first two weeks' readings are viewable online at books.google.com (search for "Nepo Awakening"), and the actual book should be easy to obtain.

This is the experimental part -- it may not be for everyone. I invite you to reflect on each day's essay as a daily spiritual practice. I plan to post occasional, maybe weekly, responses to the essays and questions on line and invite you to respond as well. My hope is that we'll be learning together how to use Facebook and other tools to have a useful discussion about matters of the spirit. You can join in at any time, step away, join again as needed. Look for more info on the uuyo.org website, or friend me on FB (I'm Matt.Alspaugh).

See you in church!

Matt

SUNDAY SERVICES - 11 AM ALL ARE WELCOME.

The children start in the sanctuary in all services and leave together for their classes, except for multigenerational services noted below.

January 1:

"Resolutions, Conflict and Interconnectedness"

This service will explore how to have successful resolutions. As a growing church, conflict is somewhat inevitable due to new people and new ideas. We will delve into some of the underlying reasons for such conflict and ways to better understand other people's perspectives in the New Year. This is a multigenerational service.

Worship Leader: Mark DeBruin

Worship Associate: Sarah Jordan

Boxing Day Gift Exchange follows the service. Everyone is invited to bring a small, silly, funky, or goofy gift, maybe a gift that you are ready to re-gift. Please wrap your present; then we will have a fun gift exchange with these presents after the service. Extra gifts are always welcome for visitors or people who didn't see this note.

January 8: "Where Are We Going?"

State of the Congregation and the Ministry"

Who are we as the UUYO congregation? Where are we going? These were questions explored by the Visioning Workshop in November. Rev. Matt will review the two plus years he has been with us as consulting minister and look forward to future possibilities. This service is followed by the congregational meeting

Worship Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associates: Karen Stangl and Michael Hill

January 15: "Doors Open to Anyone"

In his farewell address, President Ronald Reagan compared America to a "shining city upon a hill" saying, "If there had to be city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone who had the will and the heart to get here." Our current immigration policy has nailed shut most doors. How can we get the doors open -- and how can we welcome people of good will and heart to be with us?

Worship Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Carole McWilson

January 22: "A God for Unitarian Universalists"

Many of us found in Unitarian Universalism a respite from the god of Sunday-school lessons and televangelists, a god "shrunk down to fit in your wallet" as someone put it. Can a better god be imagined or constructed? We'll explore possibilities of god created by 20th century Unitarian Universalists and other liberal thinkers.

Worship Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Jan Elias

January 29: "Science and Anti-Science"

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government." And what if they are not? What if they reject the process and wisdom of science and reason, in areas like evolution, climate change, and healthcare? How can we reverse this trend (and I'm assuming we should)?

Worship Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Ed Goist

ADULT FORUMS – 9:30 AM – CHANNING HALL

January 1 -- No Adult Forum

Boxing Day Gift Exchange follows the service.

January 8 -- “Community Organizing”

Gary Davenport, a member of our church and a student at YSU, will talk about community organizing in Youngstown.

January 15 -- “Congregational Green Initiatives”

We will examine the concept of sustainably rebuilding our neighborhood by retrofitting foreclosed homes and hoping to resettle our neighborhood. This will be a discussion with Occupy Youngstown facilitated by Pat Rosenthal and Jim Converse.

January 22 -- “Removal of Dams on the Mahoning River”

Patricia Natali, a member of our church, and John Kwolek will discuss the current condition of the Mahoning River, the effect of dams on river biota, and the importance of local involvement for continued improvements of the river. The speakers also want your input on the Mahoning River.



January 29 -- “The Montessori School”

What is a Montessori and how does it mesh with Unitarian Universalism? Find the answers to these and other questions from UUYO parents, the Jordan-DeBruins, Fuhrman-Tomhaves, and Kirkpatrick's, who have chosen this education philosophy and methodology for their children. The Montessori School of the Mahoning Valley started in the UUYO education wing 37 years ago.

Reflections from UUYORE

As usual, this is a very busy season for all of us! We had a very successful Christmas party, with everyone chipping in to help out. The tree and the sanctuary turned out beautifully! A special thank you to Maria Barefoot and Wendy Pfrenger for helping the kids with crafts!



After three weeks of multigenerational services for the holidays, we will be back into our RE routine beginning January 8. The teaching teams will have rotated again too.

We will be starting a Small Group Ministry called “UU Principles and Parenting.” We will meet in the evening, once a month, to discuss parenting UU children, including examining our own belief system and how that affects our parenting skills. It should be nice to get together and learn something about ourselves and each other, and hopefully our children will benefit from our explorations as well. Please let me know if you have any questions or are interested in joining.

---BeckyAnn Harker

INTRO TO UU—SUNDAY, JAN. 15 – 12:15 PM

This will be 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.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE UPDATE 2012

Thank you to the members and friends who have made a pledge to UUYO for 2012. Your generosity is greatly appreciated as we move forward with our vision and goals as a growing congregation.

Liz Hill and Matt Alspaugh
Norma Anderson
Maria and Bradley Barefoot
Diane and Ben Barnes
Larry Cummings and Pat Baumgarner
Susie Beiersdorfer
Louisa and Martin Berger
Ginny Morgan and Frank Bishop
Jack Brizzi
Joan Bushey
Audra and Jason Carlson
Stephanie and Joshua Corrette-Bennett
Janice Elias
Ellen Ford
Beth Foster
Laura and Ed Goist
Neal Edman and Janice Grigsby
BeckyAnn and Tim Harker
Margaret Haushalter
Art Hewitt
Jan and Howard Hubbard
Luanna Jacobs
Mark DeBruin and Sarah Jordan
Cathy Kajut
Kadey Kimpel
Jane Knuppel
Adam Lee
Louise Lefkort
Peg Lehto
Alison and Jon Locketti

Jill and Daniel Materna
Marcellene Hawk Mayhall and Wally Mayhall
Carole and Jimma McWilson
Patricia March Natali
Marty O’Leary
Philip Zauderer and Karen O’Malia
Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez and Sarah Lown
Marcia and Ralph Malmer
Dianna Mason
Kristin Pacak
Diana Palardy
Richard Palmer
Maggie Pentz-Law
Eugenia and Allen Pierce
Susan Miracle and Gene Pusateri
Tim Rak
Jim Rogers
Jim Converse and Pat Rosenthal
Ellen and Lowell Satre
Jan Schnall
Rima and Brian Selius
Diana Shaheen
Karen Stangl
Cynthia Bearer and Matthew Stefanak
Mary June Tartan
Peg Tomm
Faye and Howard Wilde
Rose Marie and Larry Wire
Warren and Sandra Young
Jim Zupanic

Thank you also to Roger and Gloria Jones for their generous contributions to UUYO.

— Pledge information is current as of December 18. Additional pledges will be acknowledged in the February newsletter. If I have omitted your name in error, please email me at bselius@yahoo.com; and your name will be included in the February newsletter. Additional information on the Stewardship Campaign will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Brian Selius

BITS FROM THE BOARD

Season's Greetings, UUYO Congregants, to 2012! Another new year begins, with hope and cheer!

We on the Board are very pleased to have seen the effort and vitality in our congregation over the last year. We thank you for your continued support--both through volunteering your time and talent; and your generosity to our Stewardship 2012 Campaign, Give-Away-the-Plate Sundays and various other social fundraiser events.

In speaking with the Board and finance team, I realized what a unique and caring group we have here at UUYO. This is the third year we have tried so many different things--from worship organization, to stewardship approaches, to information gathering, to fundraising, etc. You, as a group, have been very open and accepting to new ideas and approaches to sharing our faith, beliefs, time and talents both under our roof and in the community at large. It's really an eye-opening revelation; and I wanted you all to realize how important your willingness to work together in so many different ways is important to our vitality, both now and for setting good practices for how we want to build our future. Thank you.

The Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, January 8, 2012, is one more step toward UUYO offering and becoming the church you have envisioned it to be. We will be electing new officers and delegates, making some important Bylaw changes, deciding on a budget for 2012, and moving to call our consulting minister, Rev. Matt Alspaugh. It is a busy and very promising time for UUYO.

As 2011 closes, we wish you all a healthy and happy 2012.

Warmly, Karen Stangl and the 2011 Board of Trustees

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 - 7:30 PM

During our January meeting, we will discuss Scoop by Evelyn Waugh.

Evelyn Waugh's Scoop is a satire on journalism. The plot rests on some comic twists of fortune. The owner of the national paper, The Daily Beast, sends out by mistake a nature writer of nature columns, William Boot, to cover the war in the fictional East African country of Ishmaelia. William gets some quick lessons in the devious ways of journalists, who are always trying to outwit their colleagues and deliver a scoop.



SOCRATES CAFÉ WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4 - 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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
9 AM - 3 PM



NEWS - MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members into our congregation and add their information to your church directory:



Maggie Pentz-Law, 2367 Selma Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44504 - maggiepentz25@hotmail.com
330.743.9198 or 646.301.0030
Children: Maeve (3 yrs.) and Hugh (7 mos.)

Maggie is a science teacher at Mahoning County High School in Youngstown. Pre-kids she enjoyed reading, playing the saxophone, and listening to music.

Lynn Coleman, 10121 Glenwood Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44502 - 330.743.1303

In Our Thoughts:

Ron Shaklee's (Sharon Springer) parents were in a serious accident. His mother died, and his father is recovering. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to Ron and his family.

Please keep Hillary Fuhrman-Tomhave in your thoughts. Her father, Richard Fuhrman, died December 5 after a long illness.

Melissa Smith is in rehab at Park Vista for a dislocated shoulder. We wish Melissa a quick recovery. You may send cards or call.

Park Vista Room 284A, 1216 Fifth Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44504 -- 330.746.2944

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)).

BUILDING & GROUNDS WORK PARTY SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 - 10 AM - 1 PM

We're in no danger of running out of things to do -- entropy never sleeps. All helpers welcome.

Come out and help and enjoy the company along with coffee and donuts.



COFFEE HOUSE-THE COCOA-MOCHA FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 - 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.

NEW SEWING CIRCLE

-- or quilting, knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking, or whatever. Would you enjoy chatting and laughing with fellow UUs while catching up on unfinished objects (UFOs)? We could also choose to work on a joint project (Matt has suggested that we design and execute a new banner to be carried by our delegates at General Assembly). Perhaps we could teach and learn among ourselves.

If this sounds an appealing way to spend a few hours a month, please join us for some organizing and sewing on Saturday, January 14, at 10 AM at the Church. We can discuss how often and the best times to meet. I will provide soup and bread for a simple lunch. If you'd like more information, please call 330.792.9695 or email marciamalmer@sbcglobal.net.



**THE PHILOSOPHICAL ROOTS OF UU
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25 - 7 PM**

The UU Philosophy group will be exploring early American Unitarians. This month we will be discussing Ralph Waldo Emerson.

All are welcome even if you have not attended previously.



The group will be led by Rev. Matt Alspaugh and Alan Tomhave.

CIRCLE SUPPERS

Circle Suppers are small group potlucks to meet others in the church. The next one is the evening of February 11. Sign up in Channing Hall by February 5.



Contact Sarah Jordan with any questions by emailing sarahjor@tepper.cmu.edu or calling 330.750.0939.

MODERN WITCHES SOCIETY

This is a religious group founded on the belief of Paganism. The Modern Witches Society is a coven that comes together to share, discuss, and practice our beliefs in an intimate group setting.

We celebrate the glory of nature's yearly and monthly cycles under no strict tradition, rather choosing to be eclectic, empowering freedom and creativity under the rule "harm none, do what ye will."

We will be meeting in January on the following dates at 7 PM: January 9, 20, and 28. January 7 will be the Witches Ball in Lakewood.

**RESILIENCE CIRCLE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29 - 6 PM**

Resilience Circles are groups that come together to increase economic security during these tough times, through learning, mutual aid, and social action.

It's a great group for anyone worrying about their economic situation: transitioning jobs, underemployed, unemployed, retiring or retired, leaving school, or just feeling insecure.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Women's Alliance will meet on Saturday, January 14, at 12:30 PM at Aladdin's Restaurant on South Ave.

Call Margaret Haushalter for further information (330.757.8979). All women of the church are welcome, and we especially welcome new faces.

CHURCH DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

This directory is available on our website. The password to access this directory is youngstown. Please contact the office if there's a change to be made.

CALENDAR BOOKS

Anyone that still would like calendars, there are some on the welcoming table at the back of the Sanctuary. Jack Brizzi



January 2012



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
All events are held at the church unless otherwise stated.						
1 Service - 11 AM Boxing Day Gift Exchange - 12 PM A HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 Committee on Ministry meeting 7 PM	3 AA meeting 7 PM S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	4 Socrates Café - 7 PM	5	6	7 Manjushri Study Group 3-5 PM
8 Service - 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM Annual meeting 12:15 PM	9 Modern Witches Society - 7 PM	10 AA meeting 7 PM S&CM class 6-7:30 PM Board meeting 6:30 PM	11	12	13	14 Women's Alliance 12:30 PM Tara Dance 1-3 PM Manjushri Study Group - 3-5 PM Sewing Circle 10 AM Healthy Cong. Workshop - 8-4
15 Service - 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM Intro to UU 12:15 PM	16 WPNA meeting 6 PM	17 AA meeting 7 PM S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	18 Book Discussion Group - 7:30 PM	19	20 Cocoa Mocha 7-10 PM Modern Witches Society - 7 PM	21 B&G work party 10 AM Manjushri Study Group 3-5 PM
22 Service - 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM Newsletter deadline	23	24 AA meeting 7 PM S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	25 UU Philosophy 7 PM	26	27	28 Modern Witches Society - 7 PM
29 Service - 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM	30	31 AA meeting 7 PM S&CM class 6-7:30 PM				

THANK UU'S



In the spirit of gratitude to each other for all of the many and varied ways people contribute to the life of UUYO, we acknowledge members and friends' donations of time, energy and financial support.

All UU's for the share-the-plate contributions that helped expand bonus tokens for EBT (Food Stamp) users at the Farmers' Market this summer and fall. Growth in volume helped get more fresh food to everybody and more income to area farmers and urban growers.

Luanna Jacobs for helping Diane put together the large November newsletter.

Adam Lee and his crew of helpers for organizing and preparing food for the Fundraiser Solstice Dinner.

Brian Selius for spearheading the pledge drive. Josh Corrette-Bennett for working on the 2012 budget.

Rose Marie Wire & Lowell Satre for the holiday goodies they have provided year after year to our church family.

BeckyAnn Harker and all who helped with the holiday decorating at our party on December 4.

If you have a thank you that you'd like to have included in the newsletter, email Ellen Ford at ellen_ford@sbcglobal.net by the 15th of the month.

THANK YOU TO OUR UUYO COMMUNITY!

The November 30 event, "Fracking Exposed: A State of Emergency," was a HUGE success because of the many UUYO members and friends who came together to organize locally, offer hospitality, make and serve great food and help and support in many other ways.

Over 130 people from all over Ohio, western PA and a few other states came to our church to network, educate, learn and build community. About 200 people marched (from the church to downtown) in protest of the dangers of fracking and in support of our rights to clean air, water, land use and quality of life.

The compliments and media coverage we received are a testament to the GREAT COMMUNITY SPIRIT we continue to generate here in our congregation, our local community and beyond!

CAT SITTER NEEDED

Ralph and Marcia Malmer would like to go to Florida January 28 through February 7. During that time, Mr. Bojangles needs a temporary home. He is a strictly indoor, well behaved, and a people-loving cat.

We usually pay \$15/day to give him a temporary family. If you'd like to be that family, please call 330.792.9695 or email marciamalmer@sbcglobal.net.

MEDITATION 101 - SATURDAYS 3-5 PM

Dates: Jan. 21, 28 & Feb. 4, 11, & 18

Meditation 101 is an FPMT study program and is an introductory course on basic Buddhist meditation techniques for complete beginners. You will be introduced to a variety of meditations, such as breathing, mindfulness, visualization, and analytical meditation. All of these terms will be explained, as well as what kinds of skills we develop in meditation and how these might also be useful in our daily lives. 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 nor is prior attendance required to join in!

NOTIFICATION OF BOARD PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHANGES

The Board has endorsed the following amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws for UUYO. These will need to be ratified by congregational vote at the Annual Meeting scheduled for January 8, 2012. We are bringing these changes to your attention now as to ensure the minimum two-month notification of such proposed changes, highlighted in **bold** below:

Constitution- Article VII Amendment.

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those active members present at the annual meeting **or any specially called congregational meeting** of the Church, provided that the proposed amendment has been circulated in writing to the active members at least two months before the meeting.

*This change was proposed to alleviate having to wait until the Annual Meeting to make a Constitutional Change, if there were ever a situation when a change at another time would be necessary.

Bylaws-Article IV Section III.

The annual meeting shall be held **at such time and place as determined by the Board.**

*This change was proposed because the original wording states that the Annual Meeting is held in November/December; the change reflects our current practice of holding it in January, and allows room for scheduling it at another time if necessary.

Additional Proposed Bylaw change:

Bylaws-Article II. Officers and Board of Trustees. Section 4. Terms of Office (B) Currently States:

New officers will assume their duties on Jan. 1 following the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.

Vacancies occurring on the board shall be filled by appointment by the Board in consultation with the current Nominating Committee. Board-appointed replacement members shall serve out the term to which they were appointed.

Since we have been holding our Annual Meeting in January instead of December, and since our Bylaws should reflect what we currently practice, we suggest to change of wording to the beginning of Article II Section 4 (B) to:

New Officers will assume their duties immediately following their election at the Annual or other specially called Congregational Meeting, unless otherwise specified at the time of their election.

STRETCH & CREATIVE MOVEMENT CLASS

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

Classes include yoga, stretching, muscle strengthening/toning, creative movement and simple choreography. Join us and take some time for yourself to focus on posture, breathing and the joy of movement.

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. All are welcome. Buddhist or dance experience is not necessary.

Dates: January 28, February 25, March 24, and April 28
Time: 1-3 PM

Where: First Unitarian Universalist Church

Fee: \$5 for students; \$10 for adults

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

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
Brian Selius, Finance Chair
Larry Wire, Trustee
Tim Rardion, Trustee
Jim Rogers, Trustee

Committee Chairpersons

Martin Berger, Building & Grounds
Luanna Jacobs, Caring
Carole McWilson, CHALICE Team
Lowell Satre, Endowment
Art Hewitt & Ralph Malmer, Green Sanctuary
Roger Jones, Ministry
Pat Rosenthal, Nominating
Stephanie Corrette-Bennett, Religious Education
Steve Oravec, Social Action
Ellen Ford, Thank You
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.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
YOUNGSTOWN, OH
PERMIT NO. 325