

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
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Youngstown, OH 44505 330.746.3067

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Staff:

Rev. Matt Alspaugh, Minister
Kristina Spaude, Student Minister/Intern
BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education
Heather Best, Office Administrator

UUUO The Steel Chalice
unitarian universalist church VOL. 71, No. 2, February 2016
YOUNGSTOWN OHIO

**SUNDAY SERVICES—11 AM—SANCTUARY
ALL ARE WELCOME.**

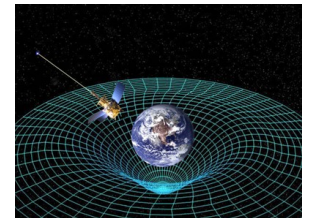
**February Worship Theme:
“Desire”**



As people of desire we recognize our yearnings, cravings, needs for a realm of things from food and shelter to relationship and love, to profound spiritual understanding and experience. We acknowledge when our desires lead us to constructive ends, and when they can lead to excess. We have available to us a rich set of spiritual practices that can help us discern our desires, manage selfish desires, and redirect that energy to better ends.

Feb 7 - “The Metaphysics of Desire”

What we desire is what we become...or not. How do science and religion conspire to control and cultivate our desires? We bring together apples, string theory and mandalas to explore the answer.



Worship Leader: Sarah Lown

Musician: Ginger Ackley

Feb 14 - “Sex, Death and the Evolution of Life”

This is Valentine's Day. It is also Evolution Weekend. We pair these up to explore the role of sex and death in the evolution of life in our world, and what it means to us as products of evolution.



Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Gary Davenport

Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

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Feb 21 "Longing for Wholeness: Addiction and Spirituality"

While addiction often has a strong physiological component, for many it has a spiritual component, a longing to fill some emptiness in one's life. We'll explore the nature of addiction, desire, management and recovery.



Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh
Musician: Nanette Solomon

Feb 28 "Clinging, Craving, Grasping, Suffering"

Hinduism and Buddhism both argue that suffering is the result of selfish attachment to things we desire and aversion to things we don't. We'll explore whether this ancient thinking still applies today, and what practices and tools might be helpful in letting go of such attachments and aversions.



Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh
Musician: Nanette Solomon

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF---SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Have a favorite chili recipe? Tried any new ones this year that you liked? Bring it to the Church's "Annual Chili Cook-Off"! Categories are: Most Unusual, Best Vegan/Vegetarian, Best Traditional, Hottest (of course), and Best of Show.

We need people to also bring in not only the chili for the contest but salad, bread or biscuits, corn bread or muffins, and desserts.

When bringing in the chili, check in with workers in the kitchen so we can accurately label for category and ingredients. Suggestions for tasting the chili will be provided on the day of the cook-off.

There is no charge for the dinner, but donations will be accepted. Also keep in mind that "amazing" prizes will be awarded to the winners.

LEADERS:

Members of the Board of Trustees

Andy Crabb, President
Louisa Berger, Secretary
Gary Davenport, Treasurer
Tom Beck
Gerard Kelly
Sarah Lowry
Ralph Malmer
Linda Mohn

Committee Chairpersons

Martin Berger, Building and Grounds
Jeanne Tucker, Caring
Lowell Satre, Endowment
Ralph Malmer, Green Sanctuary
Linda Mohn & Carole McWilson, Hospitality
Diane Barnes, Nominating
Jan Grigsby, Welcoming Congregation
Eugenia Pierce, Women's Alliance
Sarah Lown, Worship Associates 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 Universalist 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 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

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Friday, 9am-3:30pm
Sunday, 9-11am and 12:30-4:30pm

UU Leadership Institute



Wanting to become a better leader in your work, your life, and in church?

Consider attending our UU Leadership Institute. The program is a mix of on-line and in-person training sessions. There are 11 different courses, including leadership, theology, and church practice. Spring semester starts now. Cost: \$30.

We will be offering two UU Leadership Institute classes as small group gatherings.

Healthy Leadership 101

Gives an understanding of how your congregation (or other organization) functions as an interconnected, organic system of relationships, and offers healthy ways to manage change and conflict.

Alternate Mondays, starts February 1 6:30 - 8pm (Time may vary.)

Membership Ministry 141

Alternate Tuesdays, Starts February 23 6:30 - 8pm (Time may vary.)

Covers the full spectrum of congregational membership from welcoming the newcomer to pathway to community member to deeper engagement. Our emerging Membership Team will be considering these ideas as we revitalize our membership process.

Matt's Musings

At our annual meeting we discussed our financial situation and plans for responding to it. While our Stewardship drive finished better than last year, at about \$96,000 rather than \$93,000, it was still not enough cover the deficit we encounter. Last year our deficit was about \$16,000, and we clearly cannot sustain this pattern.

I offered to the board that I am willing to serve at 3/4 time for the rest of the year. They immediately objected, wanting to ensure that I was not taking on an unfair burden. I assured them that this was not purely about altruism, but that I was motivated for personal reasons as well as wanting to help the church. Besides improving the financial health of the congregation, I believe this temporary step will help us clarify which ministerial tasks might be done more effectively as part of a shared ministry with congregants. The most visible difference is that I will be in the pulpit somewhat less -- typically 2 or 3 times a month, rather than 3 to 4 times a month. I hope this 3/4 time proposal will raise awareness of the need for everyone to be part of our shared ministry, offering their time and talents as they are able. I do note that my personal situation is such that I can offer this proposal without hardship, and in fact feel it offers me a chance to regain a sense of spiritual balance. My hope is that this a temporary proposal and that we can reestablish both financial health and full-time ministry in the following year. I believe that a primary goal of the board and the congregation will be to work with me to make that so.

At our board retreat on Saturday, January 23, we spent our time well, developing trust as a new board, and delving into some of the challenges that we face. The board is exploring a variety of fundraising opportunities as well as a broader, more well-thought-out Stewardship program for later in the year (we are happy with the face-to-face visits, and hope to continue those). Board members will be looking for help in creating and implementing ways that will not only help us raise money but also reach out into the larger community for participation and engagement.

I still am planning for the final two months of my sabbatical, from April 3 through June 3. For me and Liz this will begin with a retreat on Celtic spirituality in Ireland, followed by time with relatives, and some time in Italy. We are very much looking forward to this time for growth and reflection.

Pastoral Care

If you have a pastoral care need, or know of someone in our congregation who might have a need, please contact Rev. Matt Alspaugh (minister@uuyo.org) or the church office (office@uuyo.org, [330-746-3067](tel:330-746-3067))

Dear Members and Friends of UUYO,

I am just back from Chicago – two weeks of intensive classes and convocation to begin the time. Intensives live up to their name – with classes all day and then student and school-related activities during lunch and in the evenings. It's a lot to take in, but I did my best!



One of the best things about my trip, apart from spending time with colleagues and learning, was getting to spend some time going through the archive files on the church that are kept at Meadville Lombard, following the UUA's move about a year and a half ago. The denomination had been keeping correspondence received and issued to individual congregations from about 1930 to 1980.



This has been really exciting to go through, as records at the church are incomplete and give only glimpses of UUYO's history. The records have a particular viewpoint – from the denominational perspective – but they shed light on some of the history that has been forgotten. I'm excited to continue piecing the past together and getting to share this with you later this spring. To complete my research, I'll have to make another trip to Chicago soon so I can get through the rest of the materials there. At some point, the goal is to have all the archive materials digitized (all the materials of all the congregations they have records for), but this will take some time.

Classes for spring term begin in a couple of weeks, but the work doesn't ever really end (just like in ministry and congregational life). I plan to graduate in May this year after taking my final classes for my Master of Divinity in the spring.

While it was great to be at school, I have missed participating in church activities and look forward to seeing you all again soon!

YEPS Potluck and Movie Night - Thurs, Feb 18 from 6-9pm

The Youngstown Eclectic Pagan Society invites you to attend a potluck and movie night Thursday, February 18 in Channing Hall at UUYO. For more information and to make suggestions for the choice of the movie, go to Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/y.towneclecticpagansociety/>.

Book Club - Wed, Feb 17 at 7:15pm

The UUYO Book Group met on January 20th for a lively discussion of Steven Pinker's **The Stuff of Thought**. Those who did not brave the wintry winds missed the wisdom and insights of Stephen Sniderman, who provided additional background for us about the language we use daily but may not truly understand. The esoteric presentation of some portions of the book made it a challenging read, but we all agreed we were glad we read the book and we had a @#\$\$'n good time talking about it!

The UUYO Book Group will meet on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at the home of Melissa Smith to discuss: **The Wright Brothers** by David McCullough.

Barnes & Noble Overview

Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize David McCullough tells the dramatic story-behind-the-story about the courageous brothers who taught the world how to fly: Wilbur and Orville Wright.

The New York Times - Janet Maslin

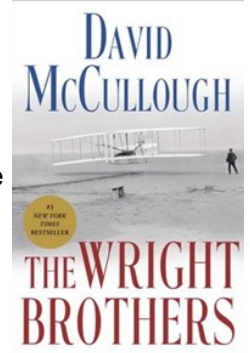
...concise, exciting and fact-packed...Mr. McCullough presents all this with dignified panache, and with detail so granular you may wonder how it was all collected.

The New York Times Book Review - Daniel Okrent

...a story of timeless importance, told with uncommon empathy and fluency...David McCullough is interested in only one thing, namely how it was possible that two autodidacts from Ohio managed to satisfy a longing that the species had harbored for centuries. *The Wright Brothers* is... a story, well told, about what might be the most astonishing feat mankind has ever accomplished.

In March we have decided to discuss Anthony Doerr's **All the Light We Cannot See**. A reading group guide to this title says: "...an epic work of historical fiction. With richly detailed language and characters who are both brave and heartbreaking, Doerr weaves together the stories of a French girl named Marie-Laure who has lost her eyesight and a German orphan named Werner. As Hitler's occupied territory grows Marie-Laure and Werner's lives and families are torn apart by the war, yet this gorgeous novel is the story of people who, against the odds, find good in one another."

Contact **Louisa Berger** for further information (bergermom@gmail.com).



Farmers' Market—Saturdays 10am—1pm

We are located at 901 Elm at Baldwin. This is to be near the Community Coop Grocery Store. Items are from local farmers. You can also visit us on Facebook. If you have any questions, contact **Jim Converse**, Market Manager, at 330-518-6970 or jwconverse@gmail.com.



Alcoholics Anonymous

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM. For the month of February, we will meet in the "Children's Chapel" classroom.

Stretch and Creative Movement

Tuesdays—5:30—7:00 PM—Channing Hall—**Susan Miracle**

Singing before the Service: Sundays 10:40am

Join us around the piano, as we sing the hymns for the morning. You do not have to be good at singing to do this, just willing!



Marcellene Hawk Mayhall or **Beth Foster** will play piano.

Care Team Volunteers Needed

Our Care Team is seeking your ideas and involvement. The Care Team reaches out to people in our UUYO community who need support, offering a visit, a kind call, a sympathy card, or perhaps a casserole. We are looking for people who like to help.

Please come visit with us, Sunday February 7, at 12:30pm in the Schweitzer Lounge. Contact **Jeanne Tucker** (tuckertalk@aol.com) or **Kristina Spaude** (kspaude@uuyo.org).

Pride Center Movie Night—Saturday Feb 20, 7pm

The Pride Center invites you to a movie night in Channing Hall at UUYO on Saturday, February 20, at 7:00 PM.

Building a Community of Belonging and Engagement

The measure of a church's membership is so much more than tallying the number of people who have signed the book. Membership speaks to having a sense of belonging and to recognizing the church as a community where people are supported in deepening their spiritual lives and co-creating their best lives. Membership is most accurately seen as a ministry.

Over the next few months, we have an opportunity to participate in the Unitarian Universalist Leadership Institute course, "From Visitor to a Full Spectrum of Member Engagement." The UUA provides videos and discussion questions that will guide us in the ways to implement these best practices at UUYO.

We will gather every other Tuesday evening at the church to consider:

Membership as Ministry
Welcoming and Greeting as Spiritual Practices
The Welcome Table
Pathway from Visitor to Community Member
Creating a Culture of Belonging
Engagement and Retention



All members and friends are invited to participate. It would be most beneficial to have newcomers as well as longer-term UU's adding their insights to the work. The first session will be February 23rd. I have previewed the first lesson and found it to be informative, innovative and immediately useful.

After we have completed a few sessions, we will determine if we will cover one or two lessons per session.

Questions? Contact me at kluure@prodigy.net

Karen Lapidus

Women's Alliance—Saturday, Feb 13, 12:30pm

The February Women's Alliance Meeting will be held at Giorgio's Ristorante, 1213 Youngstown-Warren Rd Niles, OH 44446 at 12:30 p.m. Please call Eugenia Pierce at [330-503-4039](tel:330-503-4039) to RSVP so we can get a head count for seating, and with any questions you have.

Writing as Spiritual Practice

Mon, Feb 8, 7- 8:30pm

We'll reflect on the March worship theme, which will be "Liberation." We will then have a time to "free write" individually, with the option of sharing our reflections. All are invited, regardless of writing experience. Bring a pen and notebook and a willingness to explore.

Led by Liz Hill, liz@lizhill.net, [330-333-1619](tel:330-333-1619).



Hospitality Team Schedule for the Month of February:

Team 3 is responsible for Feb 7.

Hospitality Team 3

Team Communicator: Linda Mohn

Facilitators: Diana Shaheen & Susie Beiersdorfer

Audra & Jason Carlson Karen Lapidus

Sarah Lowry Dianna Mason

Marcellene Hawk Mayhall Susan Miracle

Wendy & Andy Pfrenger Gene Pusateri

Davin Stilson Mary June Tartan

Team 4 is responsible for Feb 14, 21, & 28.

Hospitality Team 4

Jan Elias: Communicator

Ben Barnes: Facilitator

Louisa & Martin Berger Joan Bushey

Marguerite Felice & Roger Lafontaine Clayton Henderson

Tim Malone Carole McWilson

Eugenia & Al Pierce Ellen & Lowell Satre

Mary Ellen Shutes Sharon Stringer

For questions, contact **Linda Mohn** (lmohn2005@yahoo.com) or **Carole McWilson** (carolemcwilson@aol.com).

Share the Plate

This program designates half the loose collection at Sunday services to one specific charity per month.

Recommendations for recipients of Share the Plate are solicited from the congregation (forms on back table in Sanctuary).

In January, the Share the Plate recipient was Angels for Animals. "Angels for Animals believes that animals, as living creatures, have value beyond economic measure." Since 1990, over 15,000 animals have been adopted through AFA.

On Saturday, February 27, UUYO will hold a clinic to help people who have returned to society from prison to improve their opportunities for employment. We will help them complete the legal paperwork for a Certificate of Qualification of Employment, which will allow them to work in many fields which they would otherwise be prohibited.

We are working with United Returning Citizens for this training. Our Share the Plate for February will help us cover costs of training those UUYO members who wish to help with the CQE Clinic, as well as promotional and other costs of running the clinic. We are grateful for your support of this important work through your Share the Plate Sunday morning donations.

Care Team

UUYO's care team is available for short-term assistance. This could include transportation, visits, cards, phone calls or casseroles in time of need. For more information or assistance, please contact Jeanne Tucker at (330.652.0308).



Bits from the Board

We had great attendance at our annual congregational meeting and got through the entire agenda before we ran out of coffee so I think it was a success! We have approved the change to the bylaws for electing Board officers and the 2016 budget. We also named delegates to the 2016 conference in Columbus and got our 2016 nominating committee formed.



As I write this the Board is preparing for our annual retreat, which starts the year for our newly constituted Board. We'll be electing officers and working out our priorities for 2016. We also use this time to get to know each other and work out the framework for how we will work together.

I'm looking forward to a fulfilling year during which we will find new ways to engage and grow our congregation and get more comfortable with our mission, which states our reasons for staying together as a community.

Please let me know your ideas and suggestions for activities and initiatives that would help make UUYO what you want it to be.

Andy Crabb, Board President

Messages from the Care Team

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown family and friends extend their deepest condolences to Marcellene Hawk Mayhall upon the death of her beloved husband, Wally Mayhall, on December 26, 2015. Wally was an amazing man and shared his many musical talents with us over the years. If you would care to drop her a note, Marcellene's address is: 251 Redondo Rd. Youngstown, OH 44504. A scholarship is being developed at YSU in Wally's honor. Marcellene will provide more details as they become available.

Joan Bushey is housebound for a few weeks and would appreciate cards. Her address is: 130 Tulip Drive Hubbard, OH 44425.

Jennie Bechtel has been under the weather recently and cards of cheer would brighten her day. 234 E. Liberty St. Hubbard, OH 44425.

Art Hewitt, of the "World is Coming to an End" fame, welcomes cards and visits: 6474 Shafer Rd NW Warren, OH 44481.

If you know of anyone who needs some cheer or support from our church family please let me know, phone [330.652.0308](tel:330.652.0308) or tuckertalk@aol.com. And remember - EVERYONE is a part of our Care Team, even if you don't come to the meetings! Thanks! **Jeanne Tucker**

Reflections

The beginning of February is usually a happy time for me. One of my favorite events of the year is my LREDA retreat. LREDA stands for Liberal Religious Educators Association. The retreat is held at a retreat center (mansion) in Wheeling, West Virginia, and is attended by other Directors of Religious Education or the equivalent. We eat very well, we connect, share ideas, and just get to relax. And what better time to go than in the dreary dead of winter? Hopefully, I will come back feeling refreshed, and maybe have some new ideas as well!



Also in February, we will have a Youth Group Lock-In on February 6. This is for our youth grades 6-12.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, and in my Annual Report, on the weekend of March 11-13, we will be hosting the Social Action Con here at UUYO. About 80 youth will be in attendance, and along with some fun and merriment, they will also be doing a hands-on service project on Saturday. They are still working out the details of the project. As hosts of this Con (Conference), we should be thinking about how all of these people- youth and their sponsors- will be fed. I am hoping we can get a bunch of people who will be willing to help do the shopping for the event (food list will be provided) and/or help prepare/cook/set up/ clean up for meals. Please let me know if you are willing to help!

In response to some concerns from teachers, we, as a team, have decided to set up some procedures for after church time. All parents of children in the Nursery through 3rd grade should pick up their children after church. This will help the teachers clean up and get down to Coffee Hour. Also, for the safety of the children, all after-church activities should be done downstairs- in Channing Hall, either of the RE rooms and/or the Patio (weather permitting). Upstairs, especially the Sanctuary will be off-limits. Our Nursery worker will move down to the first floor once all of the Nursery kids have been picked up, and will help keep an eye on the kids in the RE wing. She will not be able to watch all of the kids in all of the spaces, so we, as the village, should also keep our eyes on the kids as we are able. This Coffee Hour time is good for all of us at church to interact with each other and form connections. It has been equally as good for the kids to have this unstructured time together. As a village, we can make sure this stays a safe place to do this.

BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education



February 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Healthy Leadership 101 6:30-8pm	2 <u>S&CM—5:30-7pm (CH)</u> <u>AA—7:30pm (CC)</u>	3	4	5	6 UUYO Youth Lock-in 4pm
7 Lock-In Ends 11am <u>Singing - 10:40am</u> Service - 11am <u>FF - 6pm (BR)</u>	8 <u>Writing as Spiritual</u> <u>Practice 7-8:30pm</u>	9 <u>S&CM—5:30-7pm (CH)</u> <u>AA—7:30pm (CC)</u>	10 Board meeting 7:00pm (BR)	11	12 Frack Free Film Event 6:30pm (CH)	13 Women's Alliance 12:30pm
14 <u>Singing - 10:40am</u> Service - 11am <u>FF - 6pm (BR)</u>	15 Healthy Leadership 101 6:30-8pm	16 <u>S&CM—5:30-7 pm (CH)</u> <u>AA—7:30pm (CC)</u>	17 Book Club 7:15pm	18 YEPS Potluck & Movie Night 6-9pm (CH)	19	20 Pride Center Movie Night 7pm (CH)
21 <u>Singing - 10:40am</u> Service - 11am <u>FF - 6pm (BR)</u> Newsletter Deadline	22	23 <u>S&CM—5:30-7 pm (CH)</u> Membership Ministry 141 6:30-8pm <u>AA—7:30pm (CC)</u>	24	25	26 Newsletter Prep for Mailing 10am	27 CQE Clinic (tentative) (CH)
28 <u>Singing - 10:40am</u> Service - 11am <u>Annual Chili Cook-Off</u> <u>12:30pm (CH)</u> <u>FF - 6pm (BR)</u>	29 Healthy Leadership 101 6:30-8pm					