

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
1105 Elm St.
Youngstown, OH 44504 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

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

Nov Worship Theme: “Ancestry”

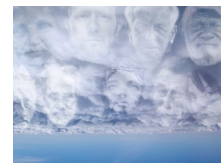
What Does It Mean To Be A People of Ancestry?

To understand the present, we look to the past, to understand ourselves, we look to our ancestors. As we consider what it means to be a people with ancestry, we consider both our individual ancestries, but also our combined ancestry story. This may be the story of immigrants coming to settle our town, of founders and shapers of our nation, or our common ancestry in the mists of time. We explore what these ancestors have to say to us that might guide us toward a better future.



Nov 1 - “Cloud of Witnesses”

November 2 is All Souls Day on the Christian Calendar, a day of remembering the dead, our relatives, ancestors, and others. In the UU tradition, All Souls reminds us of the Universalist understanding of universal salvation, suggesting the “cloud of witnesses” is not just the faithful, but everyone. We’ll explore these ideas and celebrate All Souls Day with ritual.



Worship Leaders: Rev. Matt Alspaugh/Kristina Spaude
Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

Nov 8 - “I Never Met the Man”

Our actions can influence others in ways that we may not have anticipated. We are all builders, not only to meet our immediate needs, but also to serve in ways yet to be determined for generations to come. Using examples from the past, we will take note that someday we will be the ancestors of future generations ... what will our descendants have to say about us?



Worship Leader: Tom Beck
Worship Associate: Sarah Lown
Musician: Nanette Kaplan Solomon

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Nov 15 - "Wisdom of the Generations"

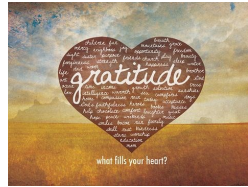
What makes our ancestry significant to our lives? Ralph Elison once wrote, "Some people are your relatives but others are your ancestors. You create yourself out of those values." What stories bring texture and wisdom to our daily lives? We explore those stories and how they bring meaning to us.



Worship Leaders: Sarah Lown, Gerard Kelly, Gina DeAngelo

Nov 22 - "The Gratitude Game"

We've learned that gratitude is not merely a feeling that comes to you, it is a state that you can consciously create and amplify, even share with others. We will explore some practices, rituals, even games for creating greater gratitude in ourselves and our families. We will continue the conversation during our traditional Thanksgiving dinner, following the service.



Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associates: Karen Lapidus and Carole McWilson

Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

Nov 29 - "Letters to the People of the Future"

A 'Letter to the People of the Future,' asks our distant children to remember us... that even in our many failings, remember us for our dreams. What might our dreams be for our descendants, the people of the future? What might we do to begin to realize those dreams?



Worship Associate: Sarah Lowry

Musician: Nanette Kaplan Solomon

Save the Date—Marcellene in Concert Sun, Nov 8 - 3pm - UUYO Fundraiser

Our own virtuoso pianist Marcellene Hawk Mayhall will present an afternoon of piano favorites from Bach to Gershwin with a reception to follow. **Please note the change to Nov 8 at 3pm.** With a ticket price of \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, or a donation to Sojourner House, children free, "I Got Plenty of Nothin," one of the pieces on the program, can help our budget go to "We Got More Toward Our Church Budget."



LEADERS:

Members of the Board of Trustees

Andy Crabb, President
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Ben Barnes
Gina DeAngelo
Ralph Malmer
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Jeanne Tucker, Caring
Lowell Satre, Endowment
Ralph Malmer, Green Sanctuary
Linda Mohn & Carole McWilson, Hospitality
Diane Barnes, Nominating
Jan Grigsby, Welcoming Congregation
Louisa Berger, 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

Thank UUs

I've had some problems (heart, stomach, lungs, and urinary track) lately and needed to visit all kinds of doctors after a stay in St E's in order to return to a semblance of normalcy. Jim Zupanic cheerfully helped as did Karen O'Malia and Martin and Louisa Berger—all wonderful friends who brighten up my days. I greatly appreciated their generous help. **Roger Jones**

Hello from Heather

Heather Best here. I am thrilled to be working as the new office administrator here at UUYO.



Let me share a little bit about myself for those of you who haven't met me yet. I was born and raised in Salem, OH. I have a grown son, Derrick, who graduated from West Branch High School last year and started a career in welding. My primary career as a research scientist and data analyst took me to Arkansas for five years, where I was the assistant director of a survey research center, and to North Carolina where I worked at a research organization founded by Duke University, NC State, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I have also worked as a professional fundraiser for a non-profit and as a high school administrator. For some years, I was a member of the UU Church in Little Rock, AR.

A few of the things I greatly enjoy are spending time with family and friends, serving my community, gardening, camping and hiking, reading, writing fiction, and learning about the spiritual traditions of other cultures.

I want to thank Diane Thomas for being incredibly helpful and supportive during my transition into this new role. My heartfelt thanks go out also to the congregation for the warm welcome and the wonderful stories you've shared already. I look forward to working and worshipping with you.

News—Member and Friends

We congratulate Shavar Johnson who has started a new job and moved to Cleveland, OH. Shavar, we will miss you!

Matt's Musings

During the month of November we explore what it means to be a people of Ancestry, what our familial and community ancestors call on us to do in the present era. For me, this brings to mind the ancestors in this congregation, who founded this church almost 125 years ago, who built the building 90 years ago, and who have done so much since. What would they call on us to do, to sustain and grow this church community?

It happens that November is our Stewardship season, the time when our members and active friends make pledges, financial promises to fund the church in the coming year. Most of the money needed by the church for programming and staff is funded through member pledges -- in fact, pledge contributions cover 90% of our expenses.

This year, our stewardship drive, "Digging Deeper - Deepening Community" hinges on making deeper personal connections within our community. We hope to have one on one conversations with every donor or potential donor in November and early December. These conversations are not so much about money as they are about relationship, about knitting tighter the connections between the different people that make up our UUYO community. These conversations invite you to talk about the church, your history with the church, hopes and dreams for the congregation, your wants and needs. Money will be only a small part of the conversation.

So let me mention some of the money part here. We learned a hard lesson last year, that we cannot depend on special fundraisers (like the auction, or gift sales, or concerts) to complete our operating funds. People who are willing to organize fundraisers feel under great pressure to "make the number," and the fun goes out of such "fun"-draisers. In the future we intend not to depend on fundraisers for our operations. Fundraisers will instead raise money for special one-time or short term programs: special trips or activities for our children, or special purchases, or mission or social justice work. This does mean that we depend on our donors to be as generous as possible with their pledges to church operations.

Indeed, if people in our congregation are especially generous, we will be able to address some growing needs at the church. We want to expand our music program, which will change as Marcellene Hawk Mayhall retires. We want to increase support for our children's religious education program, for children and families represent our future. We want to strengthen our connections with each other, through things like our care team. And we want to engage more deeply with the local community through partnership with other social justice groups.

So please, when a person from our Stewardship team contacts you about meeting, say yes to them, yes to the church, and yes to our communal future. Everyone's generosity does make a difference.

Dear Members and Friends of UUYO,

This year feels like it's moving so quickly! The leaves have been turning and falling more every day, and the light lessens. The holidays are just around the corner...

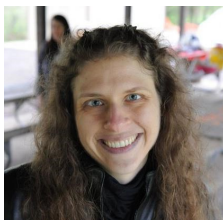
Autumn has always been my favorite season for a variety of reasons – the crispness that comes into the air, without being too cold; the leaves changing color and falling; the beginning of a turning inward that happens outside and inside. It also begins a litany of celebrations and memorials – birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and days of remembrance, all interwoven together, never far apart from each other – that extends into the new year. Autumn this way reminds me of the full cycle of life and how precious our days truly are.

Classes and congregational work have kept me quite busy this semester so far. I was glad for the opportunity to preach at the UU Congregation of Greater Canton recently, though, and to attend the Continental Gathering of UU Seminarians, which took place for the third time this year in Chicago. It was the first time I was able to attend. It was great to get to connect with colleagues new and familiar, to have meaningful conversations about a number of topics, to sing with enthusiasm, and to just be together.

A number of people have said that they'd like to get to know me better, and I wanted to let you know that at least into December, I'll usually be at UUYO Tuesdays most weeks, and probably at least one other day during the week. I will also continue to be present most Sundays.

I am really interested in doing more work around anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism – with a particular focus on racism. I have a few ideas about ways to engage in meaningful dialogues about these topics – there's a curriculum that I'd like to try out, and have also been considering a discussion group that could read articles and talk about racism in a less structured way. There's a group that Matt and I have been involved with as well, called Enabling Racial Reconciliation in Greater Youngstown that will be training individuals to lead conversations in the area specifically on racism. If you are interested in participating in this kind of conversation or any of the other activities mentioned (or if you have other ideas!), please let me know. I have heard a desire for deeper, more reflective learning from a number of people and would like to be able to facilitate as much as I can this year.

As always, I'm looking forward to seeing you in church! **Kristina Spaude**



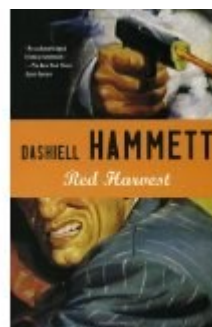
Winter Solstice—Dec 20

We are delighted to announce that Burning Sage, who performed music last year for UUYO's Winter Solstice service, will return this year for a full concert on the Winter Solstice, Dec 20. Doors open at 5pm. The show will start at 6pm.

Tickets cost \$17 in advance and include a dinner with pasta & meatballs. Christin Keck, author of the Cassie Rivers Adventures series, is sponsoring the show.

By the way, the show coincides with the church's annual cookie walk, which will continue during the concert. More information is available at: <https://www.reverbnation.com/burningsagemusic>.

Book Club—Wed, Nov 18



The UUYO Book Club will meet at 7:15 PM at the home of Melissa Smith, to discuss *Red Harvest*, a novel by Dashiell Hammett. The story is told by The Continental Op, one of Hammett's recurrent characters and is based on Hammett's experiences in Butte, Montana, as an operative of the Pinkerton Detective Agency. The story is based on the Anaconda Road Massacre which occurred when striking miners, organized by the International

Workers of the World came into conflict with the strikebreakers, including some Pinkertons.

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

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 November 15, 9:30-10:45am. Contact **Jeanne Tucker** (tuckertalk@aol.com) or **Kristina Spaude** (kspaude@uuyo.org).

Farmers' Market—Saturdays—10 AM—1 PM

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 at the church in Schweitzer Lounge.

Stretch and Creative Movement

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

Vegetarians of the Greater Youngstown Area

Our meeting will be on Sunday, Nov 1, at 4 PM at the Church. The cost is \$3 with a vegetarian dish to share and \$6 without a dish. Please bring your own place settings. For more information, find us on Facebook or call **Chris Flak** at 330.318.2400.

Explorations—Small Group Conversations at UUYO

Explorations are monthly small groups that help people go deeper into the monthly themes (although we do vary widely). We have three groups at present. Please contact the group leader for more information.

Two groups are discussion groups on this month's topic of Ancestry. Wednesday Nov 25 - 7pm - 8:30pm - contact **Sarah Lown** (sarah.v.lown@gmail.com, [330-518-0844](tel:330-518-0844))

Sunday Nov 15 - 1pm - 2:30pm - contact **Kristina Spaude** (kspaude@uuyo.org, [330-968-8692](tel:330-968-8692))

The third group is a spiritual writing group, on next month's theme of Expectation. Monday, Nov 9 - 7pm - 8:30pm - contact **Liz Hill** (liz@lizhill.net, [330-333-1619](tel:330-333-1619))

TED Talk: Nov 1, 9:30am

"A Family Tree for Humanity" Geneticist Spencer Wells talks about using DNA to understand how we emerged from Africa 60,000 to 90,000 years ago.

Singing before the Service: Sundays 10:40am

Join us around the piano, as we sing the hymns for the morning. As we approach Christmas, we will also sing beloved carols. You do not have to be good at singing to do this, just willing!

Intro to UU

Sunday, Nov 8 at 12:15pm

Join us for a brief discussion about Unitarian Universalism, UUYO, and you. This is a particularly useful gathering for visitors and newcomers, but people who've been around awhile are welcome too! Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join us in Schweitzer Lounge, about 15 minutes after the service ends, and stay for as long as you'd like. See **Kristina Spaude** (kspaude@uuyo.org) for more information.

Women's Alliance—Sat, Nov 14, 12:30pm

The Nov meeting of Women's Alliance will be at Café 422 in Boardman - 8586 South Ave.

At the Nov meeting we will discuss and vote on proposed changes to the organization's bylaws and elect officers for 2016.

Women's Alliance will sponsor the Annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, Nov 22, after the service. We will supply and prepare the turkeys; we ask that members and friends of UUYO contribute side dishes, salads and desserts; sign-up sheets will be available in Channing Hall. When you deliver your contribution to the kitchen please let an Alliance member know if it is vegetarian or vegan. This year we are planning an after dinner surprise that will add a new dimension to dessert...



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

Writing as Spiritual Practice

Mon, Nov 9, 7- 8:30pm

We'll reflect on the December worship theme, which will be "Expectation." We will then have a time to "free write" individually, with the option of sharing our reflections with one another. 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.



Time Change

Daylight Saving Time 2015 ends on Sunday, November 1 at 2 A.M. Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour Saturday night, Oct 31.



Hospitality Team Schedule for the Month of November:

Team 4 is responsible for the dates of Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, and 15.

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

Team 1 is responsible for Nov. 22, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & Dec. 13.

Liz Hill - Communicator

Gary Davenport - Communicator

Laura Andy Neal Edman

Beth Foster Jan Grigsby

John Gulgus Monica Hite

Christine Gulgus Marty O'Leary

Jim Rogers Peg Tomm

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. In an effort to ensure continuity of this worthwhile practice, the Board approved, by consensus, adoption of the following policy:

Recommendations for recipients of Share the Plate will be solicited from the congregation (forms on back table in Sanctuary), and must be submitted, in writing to the UUYO board for final approval. To ensure that the process is effective and fair in selection and distribution, the following criteria regarding the submitted organization/charity must be met:

Must be a 501(c)3 non profit.

Must have low administrative costs.

Must have a mission consistent with UUYO Mission Statement.

Must have clearly defined parameters about how, and to whom, donations are distributed.

In October, the Share the Plate recipient was the Youngstown Pride Center. As an LGBT community center for the Greater Youngstown area, The Center offered peer support groups, monthly business meetings, and a recurring discussion forum. In October, UUYO collected \$195.95 for the Pride Center.

In November, we will share the plate with Sojourner House. This organization offers protective shelter to women and their children in the Mahoning Valley who are fleeing an abusive environment and who cannot safely remain in their current residence. Sojourner House also provides counseling and support for women. They have helped hundreds of women and children with shelter, counseling and other needs.



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 member new or assistance please contact Jeanne Tucker (330.652.0308).

Bits from the Board

November is our Stewardship month. The Board is running the Stewardship program this year and has decided to do an “in-person” visit approach. We have recruited a number of members of the congregation to participate and we are preparing materials to send to the congregation. Our plan is to have each of our recruits visit about 4 other members of the congregation to get to know each other better, talk about what UUYO means to each of us, and discuss pledge commitments for 2016.

We are excited for this program and hope to gain sufficient backing to support both our current, ongoing operations and possibly expand into some new areas like Matt discussed in his newsletter article this month, including possibly expanding our music program to include a part-time, paid music director. That’s definitely a challenge but we hope it is attainable and will be supported by everyone’s generosity.

UUYO has a long history and its future is in our hands. It’s up to all of us to continue to build on the work of our ancestors in UUYO as we continue to pass the baton to future generations. UUYO is all of these things:

...An Oasis for Exploration

...Artistic and Creative

...Spiritual

...Free of Dogma

...Different Voices

...New Perspectives

...Musical

...A Place to Examine Faith

...Acceptance

...Love

...Open

And above all, it continues to be what all of us make it as each week passes by.

Thanks for your generous support and we look forward to a healthy and productive 2016 together.

Andy Crabb, Board President

REflections



One of the goals of Religious Education is to build a community of learners and seekers. We encourage learning and seeking within our weekly classes, but much of the community-building happens after the structured Sunday school hours.

We are continuing to build and strengthen our youth groups, though we are still in the fledgling stage. For the first time in a long time, UUYO will be sending a few of our youth to a Junior High Con! These CONferences are giant youth group lock-ins put on by the Ohio-Meadville District. Because they are district events, they attract kids from Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and Northern West Virginia. It will be a chance for our youth to meet other UU youth from all over the district, and have meaningful community-building. This Con will be held at the First UU Church of Shaker Heights (my old stomping grounds!) November 13-15. Hopefully they will come back with ideas of things to do with our own youth group. There is a movie night that is being planned, but the date has yet to be determined.

Within our own church, too, we have community-building among our kids, most of which happens in the downstairs RE rooms while the adults have their community-building in Channing Hall for Coffee Hour. This bonding has been loosely supervised by adults who happened to be in those rooms after church. In an effort to not require that those adults stay in those rooms for all of Coffee Hour, we have asked, and the Board has approved, of having our Nursery worker extend her time for an hour to watch the elementary-aged kids during this unstructured time. It is heartwarming to see our younger kids building these connections. I see them starting even at the Nursery level! My hope is that these bonds will last as they grow up together. My long-term vision for the future, is that they will bond with other UUs, and be a part of the larger community.

BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education



November 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>TED Talk 9:30am</u> <u>Service—11am</u> <u>VS-4pm</u> FF— 6pm	2	3 <u>S&CM—5:30-7pm</u> AA— 7:30pm	4 Socrates Café—7pm	5	6	7
8 <u>Service—11am</u> <u>Intro to UU 12:15pm</u> <u>Marcellene's Concert</u> <u>3pm</u> FF— 6pm	9 Explorations 7-8:30pm	10 <u>S&CM—5:30-7pm</u> AA— 7:30pm	11 Board meeting 6:30pm	12	13	14 Women's Alliance 12:30pm
15 <u>Care Team Meeting</u> <u>9:30-10:30am</u> <u>Service—11am</u> <u>Explorations 1-3pm</u> FF— 6pm	16 WPNA - 6pm <u>UU Leadership Institute</u> <u>6:30pm</u>	17 <u>S&CM—5:30-7 pm</u> AA— 7:30pm	18 Book Club 7:15pm	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 <u>Service—11am</u> Thanksgiving dinner 12:30pm FF— 6pm	23	24 <u>S&CM—5:30-7 pm</u> AA— 7:30pm	25 Explorations 7-8:30pm	26 Happy Thanksgiving!	27	28
29 <u>Service—11am</u> FF— 6pm	30 <u>UU Leadership Institute</u> <u>6:30pm</u>					

FF—Frack Free / S&CM—Stretch & Creative Movement / VS—Vegetarian Society / WA—Worship Associates / WPNA—Wick Park Neighbor Association