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**First Unitarian Universalist Church
Of Youngstown**
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
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Timed Dated Material

Staff:
Rev. Matt Alspaugh, Minister
Kristina Spaude, Student Minister/Intern
BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education
Diane Thomas, Office Administrator



The Steel Chalice

VOL. 70, No. 9, September 2015

**SUNDAY SERVICES – 11 AM
ALL ARE WELCOME.**

Sep Theme - “What Does It Mean to be A People of Invitation”

As people of invitation, we extend invitations to others, whether explicit or unspoken. We invite them into our lives, in all their authentic fullness. We invite them to join us on a journey to become better people. We welcome them into our community of faith and hope.

As people of invitation, we also pay attention to the invitations life offers us: encouragements, yearnings, even provocations to go deeper, to become more spiritually grounded, to make the world a better place.

We return to the Sanctuary on Sep 6.

Sep 6 - “Poured in Together”

We come together for the formal start of the church year. As members of a community, we are poured in together, like water, offering our gifts and imperfections, all mixed together, sometimes turbulent, sometimes tranquil. This service includes a merging of the waters ritual - if you have a small amount of water to share from your summer, bring it to pour in together.

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh
Worship Associates: John Gulgass and Sarah Lowry

Sep 13 - “Things to Think”

The poet Robert Bly asks you to “think in ways you've never thought before” -- of possibilities, of gifts, of hope. How might we invite our minds to think in new ways, or maybe not think in the old ways, just long enough for new ways to emerge?

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh
Worship Associates: Gina Vance and Dianna Mason

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Sep 20 - "The Greatest Trick the Devil Ever Pulled"

There's a line in the movie "The Usual Suspects" - "The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist." I don't believe in an actual devil, but I do strongly believe that this is an excellent description of systemic racism in the U.S. We'll be inviting reflection on risk and vulnerability in doing anti-racism/anti-oppression work and my hopes for UUYO this coming year.

Worship Leader: Kristina Spaude / Worship Associate: Gary Davenport

Sep 27 - "In Selma 1965: A Tipping Point in History"

Through a set of simple actions or events, Clark Olsen was with the Rev. James Reeb when they were attacked on the streets of Selma two days following the infamous "Bloody Sunday" march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.



The attack became a widely-publicized event which President Johnson used when he urged Congress to pass the Voting Rights Bill of 1965. Clark visited Selma again at this year's 50th Anniversary, and reflects on the last 50 years.

Worship Leader: Rev. Clark Olsen / Worship Associate: Monica Hite

Rev. Clark Olsen

Rev. Clark Olsen served the Unitarian Universalist faith as a parish minister for twenty years, in Westboro, MA; Berkeley, CA; Morristown, NJ.

In 1965, he was one of many clergy from across the country that journeyed to Selma, Alabama, to support the Selma-to-Montgomery Voting Rights March. On Tues, Mar 17, he was among three ministers who were attacked by local opponents of the voting rights movement. One of Mr. Olsen's companions, the Rev. James Reeb, was murdered. The public outcry over Reeb's death became a significant factor in the successful drive to end segregationist practices in voting registration.

This June, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given by the Unitarian Universalist Association for exemplary service in carrying out the values of his denomination.

Rev. Olsen will speak at these engagements:

Sat, Sep 26, 7 PM - Tyler Historical Center, Reception following - sponsored by Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Sojourn and UUYO

Sun, Sep 27, 11 AM - Rev. Clark Olsen leads worship at UUYO Coffee Hour Reception following, with question and answer time

Mon, Sep 28, 11 AM - Museum of Industry and Labor (Steel Museum) Sponsored by YSU Departments of History and Philosophy and the Schipka Speaker Series, Sojourn to the Past, and UUYO

LEADERS:

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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

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

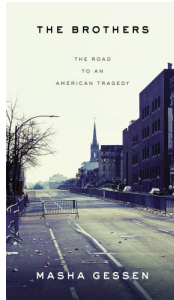
8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Vegetarians of the Greater Youngstown Area

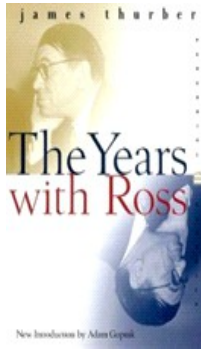
Our meeting will be on Sunday, September 7, at 4 PM in Mill Creek Park at the Lower Bear's Den Picnic Area. We will return to the Church on October 4. The cost is \$3 with a vegetarian dish to share and \$6 without a dish. Please bring your own place settings. For more information, find us on Facebook or call **Chris Flak** at 330.318.2400.

The UUYO Book Club

On September 16 at 7:15 PM, we will meet to discuss Masha Gessen's *The Brothers: The Road to an American Tragedy*. "On April 15, 2013, two homemade bombs exploded near the finish line of the Boston Marathon, killing three people and wounding more than 264 others. In the ensuing manhunt, Tamerlan Tsarnaev died, and his younger brother, Dzhokhar, was captured and ultimately charged on thirty federal counts. Yet long after the bombings and the terror they sowed, after all the testimony and debate, what we still haven't learned is why. Why did the American Dream go so wrong for two immigrants? How did such a nightmare come to pass?"



In October we will read James Thurber's *The Years with Ross*, a biographical memoir that Jill Abramson, executive editor of *The New York Times*, describes as chronicling: "the restless genius and sometimes frustrating ways of legendary *New Yorker* editor Harold Ross, who brought together an extraordinary cavalcade of talent (including Thurber) but somehow managed to keep his cast of divas productive."



If you have any questions, contact **Louisa Berger** (bergermom@gmail.com or 330.746.6897).

TED Talk and Discussion Sunday, September 6 - 9:45 - 10:45 AM

We're trying something new for the fall. On the first Sunday of the month, we're viewing a TED talk (these are videos, under 20 minutes, about "ideas worth spreading")



This month, picking up on the theme of Invitation, we'll watch the short video by Aspen Baker, called "A better way to talk about abortion." She makes the case for being neither "pro-life" nor "pro-choice" but rather "pro-voice" — and for the roles that listening and storytelling can play when it comes to discussing difficult topics. We start precisely at 9:45.

Matt's Musings

We have been dancing with the idea of "Theme Based Church" for the last year or so. In Theme Based Church, we consider a different theme each month, and explore the theme not just in worship, but as a discussion topic for our Explorations small groups, and this fall, as a topic for the monthly Children's Chapel in our Religious Education program.

Themes are frames. They provide an outline, a container, for the programming of the church. Just as you might decorate a room around a theme, choosing colors and materials that go together, we choose service elements and spiritual practices and reflection questions that go with the theme. We're not rigid, just as a decorator might add something unusual for contrast.

Our theme for September is, "What Does It Mean To Be A People of Invitation?" This frames so many compelling questions: What is invitation, anyway? Who (or what) is invited in, and who (or what) is not? Do we make space for the invited ones? How are we invited, to what, do we choose to go? The questions speak to us as individuals and as a community.

In our individual lives, we can invite that still, small voice of spirit that can offer clarity, vision, awakening for our lives. For most of us, that voice can be heard only if we make a quiet space in our lives, perhaps through meditation, prayer or other forms of spiritual practice.

For the community, I've come to realize that invitation is a more active form of hospitality. We start with the hospitality of making space for people, welcoming them, letting them sit in our circle, including them, all of them, as best we can. We go beyond hospitality by actively inviting people to become involved, to experience our community. This invitation is not proselytizing or evangelistic, we are not saying "we have the truth, come change to our ways"; instead we are saying, "here is a community that fulfills me, come and see if it might have something to offer you."

If you'd like to reflect more deeply on what it means to be a person of invitation, I invite (yes, invite!) you to consider connecting with our Explorations small groups this month. More information is in this newsletter.

Sometimes an invitation can be life changing. Rev. Clark Olsen was invited by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., to come to Alabama to help in the march from Selma to Birmingham for voting rights, 50 years ago. That invitation changed Rev. Olsen's life; he'll be here on Sunday September 27, to reflect on that experience and the direction his life has taken since.

News – Members and Friends

Welcome

We welcome new member Karen Lapidus who recently joined the church. Karen lives at 6236 Diana Drive, Poland.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go out to Martin and Louisa Berger who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 19. We also want to congratulate Allen and Eugenia Pierce who celebrated their 50th anniversary in March.

News

Linda Wiltz is moving to Oregon in September. We wish her all the best.

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 news or assistance, please contact **Joan Bushey** (330.534.9614).

Slice of Life: Stories and Dessert Tuesday, September 29 - 7 PM

A benefit for Lit Youngstown and the YWCA of Youngstown
YWCA of Youngstown, 25 W. Rayen Avenue, Youngstown

An evening of storytelling featuring true tales from five local writers (including UUYO's BeckyAnn Harker, Davita Fitzgerald and Liz Hill, plus Kris Harrington and Terry L. Shears) and delicious desserts from our finest bakers. Plus an opportunity to purchase books for the children's library at the YWCA.

Tickets are just \$5 in advance; \$8 at the door.
Contact **Liz Hill** 330-333-1619
liz@lizhill.net for tickets.



Worship Associates Meeting—Sunday, September 20

This meeting is for Worship Associates and anyone else who wants to work on fall services. We will meet after church.

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.

For August the Share the Plate goes to Oh Wow! – The Roger & Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science & Technology. OH WOW!'s mission is to foster independent thinking and enrich the lives of all children by creating a welcoming environment where they can develop learning skills and knowledge through the exploration of HANDS-ON exhibits and educational programs which are rooted in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
Total collected so far: \$200.

For September the Share the Plate will be Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past. It is a 10-day journey for high school students. This experience takes students to the South visiting the Civil Rights sites, meeting leaders of the Movement and learning the lessons of the Movement such as justice, nonviolence, civic responsibility, hope compassion, tolerance and not being a silent witness. The goal is for students to incorporate these lessons into their daily lives and become leaders for social justice and nonviolence in their schools and community.



Stretch and Creative Movement

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

Dear Members and Friends of UUYO,

Summer went by far too quickly! It's hard to believe that school is starting soon for everyone, including me! I'll be heading to Chicago soon for our annual August convocation, which begins the academic year. This year I'll be enrolled full-time in classes, plus continuing this half-time internship. It will be a very busy and full year.



Our monthly theme for September is "Invitation." Fall always seems like an invitation to me – I love when the air cools, and it feels like everything is crisp and fresh. I love the colors and the preparation for dormancy. Invitation can mean many things. What I hear in it is a desire to go deeper – what more can we do? What more can we be? I am reminded in this one word of possibility and a sense of relationship between two or more things or people.

One of the tasks I am assigned for school this year is to implement a "Focused Initiative" project. The purpose of this project is to lead change in the congregation. After much discussion with Rev. Matt and a number of congregational leaders, I've chosen my project to be on the subject of anti-racism, anti-oppression, multiculturalism (ARAOMC) work. Details are still being worked out and may even change over the course of the year; but I am passionate about this work and looking forward to it. Two things in particular that I am hoping to achieve are to help members and friends of the congregation deepen their understandings of racism and oppression and to strengthen relationships between UUYO and area organizations and congregations that are also committed to this work.

Over and over I am reminded of the words of the Rev. Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar – "In the lore of ancient China there is a story of a philosopher who was asked, 'Where is the road called hope?' He replied, 'It does not exist, but as people walk upon it, it comes into being.'" (*The Gift of Faith*, p. 103) Over and over I am reminded of the invitation to work together to bend the arc toward justice. The key is that we must work together.

I look forward to seeing you in church!

In faith, **Kristina Spaude**

Alcoholics Anonymous

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM at the Church in Schweitzer Lounge.

Bits From the Board

During Matt's recent sabbatical, we rapidly grew an appreciation for all he does in the day-to-day activities of our faith community. A computer crash, transition from sanctuary to Channing Hall for service and coordinating music for service are just a few examples of the responsibilities we assume occur as a natural course of events in the church, i.e., until no one is there to do them. In late September we are having a meeting to discuss our church dynamics and explore how best to function seamlessly. It is titled: "Restart" and will be moderated by Rene Ruchotzke from the Ohio Meadville District of the UUA. All interested congregants are invited. We will explore our experience while Matt was away and plan for the future.

We soon bid adieu to Diane Thomas, our administrative assistant extraordinaire. If you are not familiar with what she accomplishes on a weekly basis, you would be amazed. We wish her well and thank her for all she has done for us through the years. We are reviewing resumes from candidate to assume her position and hope to make an announcement soon.

Gerard Kelly, UUYO Board of Trustees

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.



Benefit Concert

Eclectic Folk Americana Band Troubadours of Divine Bliss are performing a benefit concert at UUYO on Labor Day, September 7. Doors open at 6 PM. Show at 7 PM to raise funds to help pay for bringing in the Rev. Clark Olsen this month to lecture on his time in Selma. Tickets will be \$10.

You can go to <http://troubadoursofdivinebliss.com/> for more info.



Bringing Rev. Clark Olsen to Town

We are bringing Rev. Clark Olsen, who was with Rev. Jim Reeb when he was attacked and killed by segregationists in Selma Alabama 50 years ago, to Youngstown. He tells an amazing story. Your donations of \$5, \$10, \$20 or more can help make this happen. Go to bit.ly/OlsenVideo to read more, see our short video, and help us with this major event!

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 12 different courses, including leadership, theology, and church practice. Fall semester starts on September 8. Cost: \$60.

The in-person training will be right here at UUYO, with people from other nearby UU churches coming to us. See www.uuinstitute.org for more information.



Explorations - Small Group Conversations at UUYO



Explorations are monthly small groups that help people go deeper than the Sunday morning church experience. We use the monthly theme as a starting point for discussion.

Right now, we have two groups tentatively meeting: One on Wednesday, September 23, and the other on Thursday, September 24. For further information, please contact:

Gary Davenport (330.518.7037 / gdavenport@uuyo.org) or
Sarah Lown (330.318.3100 / sarah.v.lown@gmail.com)

Sam the Cat

Sam needs a new home – I'm moving to Corvallis, Oregon, on 9/15/15. I can't take him with me, although I'd like to.

He's not immediately affectionate but does purr when his head and cheeks are rubbed. He needs company and gentle attention. Will have had 3 year rabies, etc., prior to my departure. If interested, contact **Linda Wiltz** (phone 330.707.4708, 1310 5th Ave, Apt 1004, Yo, 44504).

Women's Alliance – Saturday, September 12

Women's Alliance will meet at 12:30 PM at the Amen Corner, 20 W Main St, Girard, OH 44420.

It will be good to catch up after a busy summer; some of the items on the agenda of the business meeting will be fundraising and event planning, bylaws review (yes, it has been two years since the bylaws were revised) and financial review.

Contact **Louisa Berger** for further information.
(bergermom@gmail.com or 330.746.6897).

Ohio Meadville District's Annual Leadership Day Saturday, September 12

"Belief Without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but Not Religious"

A Conversation with Prof. Linda Mercadante, Professor of Theology at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

For more information and to register: www.uuyo.org/omd-ld2015/

Rev. Matt will be attending this event; contact him if you would like to coordinate a ride.



Universal Café

Monday, August 31, 7 PM
Returning Citizens

Guests will include Pat Kerrigan, Oak Hill Collaborative; Mayor John McNally; and others.

Tuesday, September 15, 7 PM
Infant Mortality

Additional information will be sent out soon.

Restart: A Conversation About Our Future Wednesday, September 30, 5:30 - 8 PM

After a minister takes a sabbatical, congregations often take time to reflect on how things went with the minister away, and how things might be different in the future. This can be a time of re-orientation, of finding new directions for the church.

We will have a discussion led by Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, part of our UUA's Central East Regional staff, over a potluck dinner. Childcare will be provided.



Thank UUs

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.

Thanks to all those who turned out for the work party on August 15 – Martin Berger, Kadey Kimpel, Sarah Lowry, Anita Wesler, Gary Davenport, Liz Hill, Jim Rogers, Andy Crabb, Gerard Kelly, Gina DeAngelo, Linda Mohn, and Ralph Malmer. Another successful work party at UUYO, as we spruce up in preparation for the fall season!



Thank you to Davita Fitzgerald for helping with the new name tags.

Thank you to Jeanne Tucker for taking pictures of the worship services and posting them on Facebook.

Writing as Spiritual Practice Monday, September 14 – 7-8:30 PM



We'll share some readings and reflections on the October worship theme, which is "letting go." We'll then have a time to "free write" individually, and have the option of sharing our reflections with one other.

All are invited, regardless of writing experience. Bring a pen and notebook and a willingness to dive deep. Led by **Liz Hill**, liz@lizhill.net, 330-333-1619.

Reflections From UUYORE



Welcome back, my friends! I hope everyone had a restful, relaxing, and rejuvenating summer. I know I have! That's good too--we have lots of things going on in RE this year!

Religious Education classes will officially start the Sunday after Labor Day-- September 13! We will continue to have less formal classes before that time, including working on posters for this year's Non-Violence Parade. Save the date for this event: Sunday, October 4, at 3:00.

There are some big changes in the World of RE. The biggest is the addition of a monthly Children's Chapel. As the congregation moves into doing monthly themes, the younger members of the congregation will also have a worship service on the theme, tailored to them. This Children's Chapel will be led by me, with help from children and/or youth.

To accommodate this monthly worship service, our teacher rotations will also change. Each teacher will be assigned a month to teach, but will only teach three out of the four weeks. That means they are committing to teach for three weeks, then be off for five weeks, allowing them more time to attend worship services. There will be two teachers or teaching teams for each of the four classrooms. In the event of having five Sundays in a month, we will use that fifth Sunday as a Social Action Sunday, and will be working on projects to help others. We are always looking for good projects, so please let me know if you have any ideas!

The curricula we will be using this year are as follows:

PreK/K: Creating Home: This program helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith.

1st-3rd Grades: Signs of our Faith: Guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day. It presents fourteen traits or values that most Unitarian Universalist love, including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting one another on our faith journeys, and public witness.

4th-7th Grades: Bibleodeon: to finish curriculum from last year, the children will discuss Jesus and the New Testament, then they will finish the year learning about other world religions.

8th-12th Grades: No formal curriculum, though can be added as the year goes on. Youth will use this time as their High School Youth Group.

Middle School Youth Group will start up again in September and will meet after church every other week. There may be some joint Middle School and High School Youth Group events this year. Also this year, we are starting a Young Adults Group. Parenting Group can still meet during Youth Group time, and perhaps we can revisit a Friday night Parenting Group as well! So many things! I can't wait to see you all again soon!

--BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hospitality Team 2 for most of the month of September		1 <u>S&CM – 5:30-7 PM</u> AA – 7:30 PM	2	3	4	5
6 <u>Service – 11 AM</u> FF – 6 PM	7 <u>Labor Day</u> Benefit Concert 7 PM	8 <u>S&CM – 5:30-7 PM</u> AA – 7:30 PM	9 Board meeting 6:30 PM	10	11	12 Women's Alliance 12:30 PM
13 <u>Service – 11 AM</u> Finance Committee <u>12:30 PM</u> FF – 6 PM	14 Writing as Spiritual Practice - 7 PM	15 <u>S&CM – 5:30-7 PM</u> <u>AA – 7:30 PM</u> Universal Cafe 7 PM	16 Book Club – 7 PM	17	18	19
20 <u>Service – 11 AM</u> <u>WA – 12:30 PM</u> FF – 6 PM	21 WPNA – 6 PM Newsletter Deadline	22 <u>S&CM – 5:30-7 PM</u> AA – 7:30 PM	23 Explorations – 7 PM	24 Explorations – 7 PM	25	26 Rev. Clark Olsen visit
27 <u>Service – 11 AM</u> <u>Rev. Clark Olsen</u> FF – 6 PM	28 Rev. Clark Olsen visit	29 <u>S&CM – 5:30-7 PM</u> AA – 7:30 PM	30 Restart Event – 7 PM			

FF – Frack Free / S&CM - Stretch & Creative Movement class / WA – Worship Associate / WPNA – Wick Park Neighborhood Association

Mindfulness Meditation will not meet in September.

Hospitality Teams Schedule for September

Team 2 (Prime Movers) will take over on **August 30** and continue through September **20**. **Team 3** will take over on **September 27**.

Communicator – Jan Schnall

Facilitators: Ralph and Marcia Malmer

Miller Brewer

Gerard Kelly

Sarah Lown

Lynn Coleman

Kadey Kimpel

Patricia Natali

Kate Fitzgerald

Alison Locketti

Trudee Weatherby

Cathy Kajut

Jon Locketti

Anita Wesler

Margaret Haushalter

Questions or concerns about any team should be addressed to

Linda Mohn (lmohn2005@yahoo.com) or

Carole McWilson (carolemcwilson@aol.com).

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