

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
1105 Elm St.
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. 4, April 2016
YOUNGSTOWN OHIO

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

April Worship Theme: "Creation"

Creativity is simply our ability to dream things up and make them happen. — Peggy Taylor

Creativity is about dreaming and imagination. It is about being able to envision what others haven't. It is about noticing connections that haven't been drawn. Even connections between us and the earth, and us and each other. To be a people of creation is indeed to dream the "not yet."



But what about that other part? "...and make them happen." There's something in there that sometimes gets short shrift. Yes, creation requires the ability to imagine the "not yet," but it also requires the courage to live into it.

April 3 - "Grace in Small Portions"

We'll explore the tension between the "big" visions we have for what we can do and be... and our knowledge that we will always fall short. Through the lens of parenting, we will look for the possibility that small moments of grace may transform our pursuit of grander purposes.



**Worship Leaders: Andy and Wendy Pfrenger
Music: Jon Locketti and his band**

April 10 - "Creating Dangerous Ideas"

The legacy given to us by our Unitarian forefather Ralph Waldo Emerson was the idea that the true work of our lives is the heart's spiritual awakening. Emerson has been called America's first public intellectual, and he placed great emphasis on each individual's capacity and obligation for decision-making and truth seeking. Emerson also profoundly influenced the creation of a new path for Unitarianism in the 19th century. Join us to discover how Emerson's thinking continues to influence our collective faith and our individual spirituality.



Worship Leader: Rina Shere, Chaplain Resident at the VA Medical Center in Cleveland

Worship Associate: Monica Hite

April 17 - "Come Into Animal Presence: A Blessing of the Animals"

Animals occupy a special place in our lives—their presence brings us comfort, peace, and calm, and inspires creativity. Join us as we celebrate the animals who share our world, and give thanks for the gifts they give us. Furry, feathered, or scaly friends on leashes or in tanks or cages are welcome! You may also bring a photo or a stuffed animal in lieu of having your pet with you.



Worship Leader: Molly Toth

Worship Associate: Gina Vance

Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

April 24- "Passover and Earth Day"

This Sunday we'll be reflecting on and celebrating Passover and Earth Day. What lessons are there for us when we consider these two holidays together through the Creation lens? How can they inform our lives today?



Worship Leader: Kristina Spaude

Worship Associate: Gina Vance

LEADERS:

Members of the Board of Trustees

Andy Crabb, President
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Gary Davenport, Treasurer
Tom Beck
Gerard Kelly
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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

New Fair Trade Products

The Equal Exchange coffee cart has one new coffee, plus cooking, baking, and snacking items. Equal Exchange is our Fair Trade Co-operative supplier, and we've been participating in its Interfaith Program for many years.

The mission of the co-op is to support local farmers in countries where the commodities of coffee, tea, and chocolate are grown. Fair trade assures that farmers receive fair prices and extra assistance to farm sustainably within a global market.

In addition to support for farmers, Equal Exchange contributes to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, our denomination's social justice organization. As a congregation, we are able to purchase items from Equal Exchange in bulk, and then set prices to fund-raise on each item sold. Our sales support the coffee and tea you drink every week at coffee hour. So when you buy chocolate bars or bags of coffee, you are helping farmers, the UUSC, and our own church, in addition to receiving high quality fair trade food items. It doesn't get much better than that!

Here are the new products to try:



Coffee: Organic Congo Coffee Project; for each bag sold, Equal Exchange donates to Panzi Hospital in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo; whole bean coffee, which gets outstanding reviews; 1 lb.; \$10.00.



Olive Oil: Extra Virgin Organic Oil grown and pressed by Palestinian farmers in the West Bank; reviewers comment on its excellent flavor; 500 ml. bottle; \$14.



Chocolate Chips; famous Equal Exchange chocolate in chip form for your favorite cookies; Semi-sweet or Bittersweet varieties; 12 oz.; \$5.00.



Nuts; absolutely the best snack ever; organic and natural (no salt); Cashews from El Salvador and Almonds from northern California; 8 oz.; \$7.00 and \$8.00.

Join the UUYO Fun!raising Team - Auction

If you'd be willing to serve on the UUYo Auction Committee, please email your name and contact info to **Tom Beck** at tbeck@uakron.edu or **Andy Crabb** @ president@uuyo.org or **Ralph Malmer** at rmalmer@zoominternet.net.

Matt's Musings

Kristina Spaude and I were talking about the upcoming months, April and May, when I would be away on sabbatical; June, when Kristina would be finishing her internship with us; and then the summer months into fall. She wondered what things we should be focusing on in this time. After some pondering, I determined that there are three important areas of focus.

We are giving serious, thoughtful attention to how we welcome and include newcomers into our community. This is with the great help of Karen Lapidus, who is taking the lead in exploring new ideas for welcoming, supporting, and engaging new people who find our church attractive. We're still working out how we welcome newer people so that they feel fully included as part of UUYO. This includes the work of our Hospitality Teams, as well as thoughts about programming and classes for newer people. We are excited about the possibilities, for we've had more visitors in recent months, and our most recent Newcomers Circle had eight people present (we needed extra chairs in Schweitzer Lounge!).

We are returning to the important idea of shared ministry, which is the simple realization that the work of the church is the responsibility of us all. I've been reminded that I should not take on too much myself; that sharing the ministry gives everyone a chance to grow. Shared ministry is happening in many wonderful ways. We have a large, strong team of people working on fund-raising, or as they remind me, FUN-raising, for it's about community and fun, not just the funds. We have a solid Care Team reaching out to engage people who are unable to attend church, and our Worship Associates have organized our Sunday mornings while I'm away. There's talk of a Facilities Team that would help keep the building organized and pleasant for everyone who uses it. Our experience with our first CQE Clinic -- where we had 24 UUYO folks volunteering -- suggests a way in which we can provide an important service in Youngstown by helping citizens returning from prison find work.

Finally, we need to begin planning our future together. When I was at a Leadership Training week in February, I learned of a technique used at other churches. Called a Listening Campaign, it consists of intentional, thoughtful, one on one conversations among members and friends of the church. These conversations both connect people and lift up ideas, thoughts, and concerns about the church. We may strive to begin such a Listening Campaign over the summer, spread out over several months. The board would then reflect on the things we learn through the campaign, and this would guide our planning for the future.

I will be away for the second half of my sabbatical starting April 3. Liz and I will be traveling in Europe during part of this time. I will return to the church on June 5. During my time away, Kristina Spaude will serve as sabbatical minister, as she completes her internship with us. I am grateful for everyone who is helping out during this sabbatical time

See you in church!

Dear Members and Friends of UUYO,

As spring sprang, I found myself having deep yearnings to run again. I miss running. I loved it. I loved the way I felt when I ran – knowing the power of my body and feeling what seemed like every cell pumping and living to the fullest. I loved it. And springtime reminds me with its scents and warmth about running because it was the time of year I'd get started with it again. I had to stop running after I found out I herniated a disc in my lower back and that the rest of my lower back was equally at risk. Doctors said if I continued to run it probably wouldn't be long before I had more damage to deal with. (In case I'd wondered at the risk, two years later another disc herniated.) It's been at least 6 years since the last time I ran, and still my body longs to do it.



Sometimes our bodies don't do the things we'd like them to do or they do things we wish they wouldn't. One thing I've been making peace with the last 6 months or so are the skin allergies I found out I had in the fall. It's taken some time and practice to adjust to, but knowing what to avoid helps a lot. Another thing I've been making peace with is having tested positive for HPV (the human papilloma virus; the overwhelming majority of adults have some strain) and cervical cancer just over two years ago. The cancer was caught early – so early that the doctor said they may have gotten it all when they took the biopsy. Thankfully, follow-ups have been negative since the initial testing.

There are so many things that can go wrong with our bodies, but it's important to celebrate them and love them for all the amazing things they do. It's hard to love the muscle spasms and parts that break or feel broken and all the things that go wrong when they go wrong. But they are also opportunities to remember what wonders we are and how important it is to take care of ourselves. There's a line in reading #686 in the grey hymnal by Mark Belletini that I love – "Take care of yourselves as bodies, for you are a good gift."

I recently started going to a chiropractor again to help maintain my back health, and do the stretches and exercises they gave me to do as often as I can. I walk as often as the weather and my schedule allow. I swim in the summertime – the joy of being in water is alone a wonderful thing. And when I'm not up for it, I forgive my body, and sit with the heating pad when I need to. Taking care of ourselves as bodies takes many forms.

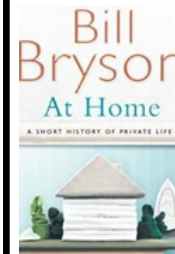
Some important practical notes: Matt is on sabbatical again April 3 through June 5, and I will be serving again as Sabbatical Minister while he is away. My internship will end after he returns, and we will be celebrating the end of my time with UUYO during the June 12 worship service. I will be doing a one-year chaplaincy residency starting in the fall. I will be in Chicago for my last intensives April 2-16. I will have somewhat limited phone and email access, but will reply to any messages that come my way as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you in church!

In faith,
Kristina Spaude

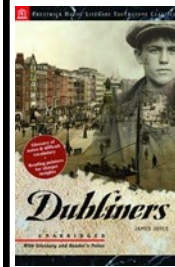
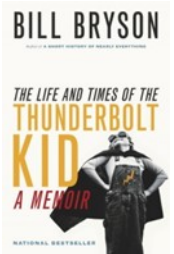
Book Club - Wednesday, April 20 at 7:15pm

The UUYO Book Group will meet at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at the home of Melissa Smith to discuss two titles by the prolific author, Bill Bryson:



In April we will consider two titles by Bill Bryson. **At Home: A Short History of Private Life** is, as described by his publisher: "a room-by-room tour through his own house, using each room as a jumping off point into the vast history of the domestic artifacts we take for granted. As he takes us through the history of our modern comforts, Bryson demonstrates that whatever happens in the world eventually ends up in our home, in the paint, the pipes, the pillows, and every item of furniture."

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid is Bryson's memoir of growing up in the 1950s. Read one, read both; discuss.



In May we will read *Dubliners*, a collection of fifteen short stories by James Joyce, published in 1914. This collection of stories describes Irish middle class life in and around Dublin in the early years of the 20th century.

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

Thank UUs

A big "thank you" goes out to everyone who provided flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. You made our space even more beautiful for our special holiday service.



To the congregation from **Marcellene Hawk Mayhall**:

Thank you all for the many kindnesses you have shown me during my husband Wally's last illness and passing. Thanks, too, for all of you who contributed to his memorial service, to Matt for his eulogy, to the Women's Alliance for the reception after the service, for those who helped with the display at the reception.

Some small envelopes with Wally's name were left in Channing Hall after the reception. They seem to have disappeared. If any of you know the whereabouts of these envelopes please let the office know so that they may find their proper home.

Thanks again to all of you for your continued support.

This 'n That

Beatitude House has teamed up with the Pittsburgh Steelers to present the first Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Beatitude House charity basketball classic. On Sunday, April 10, 2016 the teams will face off at Ursuline High School. The doors open for the game at 5:00pm on Sunday, April 10th and the game will start at 6:00pm. Guests will get to see their favorite current and former Steelers hoop with local community members in the spirit of charity. A 3-point and free throw contest will be offered, and half-time will provide the opportunity for the Steelers to sign autographs for the fans. Please call Beatitude House at 330-744-3147 to purchase your tickets today. For more information please visit Beatitude House Facebook page, www.facebook.com/beatitudehouse.

The Alliance for Congregational Transformation Influencing Our Neighborhoods (**ACTION**) will hold its 14th Annual Community Fundraiser and Banquet on Thursday, April 21, 2016, from 6-8pm at Mount Carmel Hall, 343 Via Mount Carmel Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44505. ACTION is a diverse alliance of 21 Mahoning Valley congregations representing more than 10,000 families. ACTION is presently working on a number of key initiatives to improve the quality of life in our area. The initiatives include building safer neighborhoods, increasing parent involvement in local schools, reducing crime, and working with law enforcement and community groups. Please come support the work of ACTION in making Mahoning Valley a better place to live, work, and worship. Tickets are \$35 each. Contact **Rose Carter** at (330) 941-0475 for more information.

Clare Puskarczyk, Ph.D., is showing movies every Wednesday and Friday evening this month from 7 to 9 pm near Park and Fifth on the Northside. DVDs presenting Consciousness Studies and the integration of Spirit and Science, including Rupert Sheldrake (morphic resonance), Bruce Lipton (Biology of Belief), Christian De Quincey (consciousness as philosophy), and related topics (remote viewing, telepathy, healing, sacred geometry) will be shown. Since Clare's area/passion is Consciousness Studies, and she has met/conversed with many of these presenters, she is open for questions/discussion. There are two flights of stairs, no elevator. It is essential to RSVP (small space). Fruit juice and herb tea are provided. You may bring drinks/snacks to share. Clare's is a vegan, organic, non-GMO household. There is no fee. Contact Clare at 330-746-8004 if there are questions.

Join the UUYO Fun!raising Team - Rummage & Book Sale

If you'd be willing to serve on the UUYo Rummage and Book Sale Committee, please email your name and contact info to **Linda Mohn** at ljmohn2005@yahoo.com or **Tom Beck** at tbeck@uakron.edu or talk to Linda or Tom at Church. It's part of our UUYo FUN!raising for 2016. See "Bits from the Board" for more information.

Bits from the Board



As your new Treasurer, I would like to share some insights into fundraising in 2016. This year will be a little different than the last two, and a lot of fun!

Last year's stewardship campaign was a great success, with slightly more pledges coming in than the year before. We ran our campaign with face-to-face conversations as a way to learn more about one another, what's working, and what opportunities and challenges we're facing.

In addition to the stewardship campaign this Fall, we will also be running several community-oriented events throughout the year as a way to meet our budget goals, support our mission and activities as a congregation, and get to know one another and have fun. The fundraising theme is **FUN!raising**.

First, I would like to invite you to attend our **Finance Committee meeting Sunday, April 3, at 12:30 in the Board Room**. The Finance Committee is where we will coordinate all fundraising events this year. We will check in on event progress and share new opportunities.

I would also like to invite you to participate in the following events. Something sound fun? Grab the lead on each project and ask how to get involved!

Like the coffee, chocolate, and other goodies we offer during Coffee Hour? Our long-running **Equal Exchange** fundraiser is expanding this Spring with new featured items, custom ordered items, and UUYO t-shirts! See Louisa Berger or Ellen Satre for more information or to suggest new venues where we can sell our worker-owned, cooperatively-produced goods.

Miss our **All-Church Talent Auction**? We took a break last year, but will host one this coming June. Members and friends have the opportunity to go birding, brew beer, learn about wine, get home-baked pastries, or attend one of our awesome picnics or dinners. See Tom Beck or Andy Crabb about offering your talent for the auction or helping run the show.

The qUUIz Show: An evening of pointed questions about recent news and world events with local celebrity and panelists surprise guests, a la NPR's famous "Wait, Wait" gameshow. The event will feature dinner and wine and is sure to have guests howling in laughter. See Sarah Lowry, who is organizing this event, to get involved.

It's time to start saving for the **Book & Rummage Sale**, which we'll run this Fall. Offerings will include books, CDs, DVDs, jewelry, clothing, appliances, and anything else you'd like to donate. See Linda Mohn for more information.

Our goal this year is to raise \$15,000 in addition to our regular stewardship campaign. This will not only allow us to meet our budget but also allow us to expand programming; e.g., hiring a music director, all while getting to know one another better and having some fun.

Here is to a **FUN!raising**—I'm looking forward to working with you!

Gary Davenport

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.

Women's Alliance—Saturday, April 9, 12:30pm

The Women's Alliance luncheon this month will be held at The Tavern on the Square Restaurant, 108 North Market Street, New Wilmington, PA. 16142. This is in the center of the town at the intersection of Routes 158 (Market St.) and 208/158 (W. Neshannock Ave.). Afterward we will visit a quilt shop, for those who wish to go. This area is a heavily populated Amish area so please be courteous and cautious while driving there. This meeting is open to all; one does not need to be a member of Women's Alliance, or even of our church. Guests are welcome. Please, call if you are planning on attending. If we have a large group I would hate for the staff to have to shuffle us around. Call **Eugenia** at [330-503-4039](tel:330-503-4039) or at [330-953-3086](tel:330-953-3086).

Building a Community of Belonging and Engagement

Everyone of us, from those who have been members of UUYO for decades to those who have just stated attending since the first of the year, has a story to tell about the first time they gathered their courage and walked through our doors into our sanctuary for the first time. For every one of us, this is not a casual encounter, but one that is considered, thoughtful and meaningful. Every one of us walked through that door the first time because we had a reason to do so. Many come to church at a time of personal crisis, or seeking religious education for their children, or when they are looking to fill a deep spiritual need.

We all share in the responsibility of creating a sense of welcome and hospitality to our visitors at this important juncture of their lives. Fortunately, we are very good at doing this, so we have the perfect starting place to fine-tune and strengthen our practices.

Linda Mohn, who is one of the coordinators of the Hospitality Teams, and I will be co-leading a series of refresher trainings for team members. On April 10th, Team 2 Members will meet. Our hope is to offer the refresher training to each team on the first Sunday of their next rotation.



In the meantime, a small group of folks have been engaging with the materials from the Unitarian Universalist Leadership Institute course, "*From Visitor to a Full Spectrum of Member Engagement*". It is not too late to join in. In April, we will be meeting on the 5th and the 19th at 6:30 in the Youth Room.

Please don't forget to wear your name tag!

Karen Lapidus
Membership Coordinator

Newcomers' Circle—Sunday, April 24 at 12:15 pm

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) or **Karen Lapidus** (Kluure@prodigy.net) for more information

Writing as Spiritual Practice Will Not Meet in April

There will be no meeting in April due to Liz and Matt's sabbatical. We will next meet Monday, May 9, from 7 - 8:30pm in the Board Room.

We'll reflect on the May worship theme, which will be "BLESSING." 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).



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).

The recipient selected for April, 2016 is Planned Parenthood of Mahoning Valley, Inc. Their mission is to protect, promote and provide empowered health care for generations of women, men, and families across Ohio.



Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio provides essential reproductive health care services to women and men. Their services are designed to help people make lifelong informed choices that focus on responsibility, prevention of unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and reproductive cancers. See more at: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-greater-ohio/who-we-are/our-history/northeast-ohio/>

Hospitality Team Schedule for the Month of April:

Team 1 (Prime Movers) is responsible for April 3.

Hospitality Team 1

Communicator: Liz Hill
Facilitator: Gary Davenport
Neal Edman Beth Foster
Jan Grigsby John & Christine Gulgas
Monica Hite Kelsey Myers
Marty O'Leary Jim Rogers
Peg Tomm Molly Toth

Team 2 is responsible for April 10, 17, & 24.

Hospitality Team 2

Communicator: Anita Wesler
Facilitators: Ralph and Marcia Malmer
Millie 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

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

Care Team

UUYO extends their deepest sympathy to **Judith Stone** and family upon the death of her sister, **Shirley Gurmin**. Judy would appreciate cards and good thoughts at this time but please, no phone calls or visits until later.

Norma Anderson would appreciate phone calls at 330.261.2456.

Dawn Rouse Jordan, a member who moved away a couple of years ago, has asked me to let people know that she is in the hospital at Lindner Center of Hope, 4075 Old Western Road, Mason, OH, 45040. She can be reached at [513-536-0450](tel:513-536-0450). If you call, you have to give the code word "Rouse" to the receptionist in order to be put through to Dawn. She would appreciate calls, cards, prayers, and good wishes.

We continue to hold in our hearts **Marcellene Hawk Mayhall**, who lost her husband, Wally, at the end of last year.

If you know of someone who needs support from our Care Team please notify **Jeanne Tucker** at [330.652.0308](tel:330-652-0308) or tuckertalk@aol.com or **Heather Best** at the church office, [330-746-3067](tel:330-746-3067) or office@uuyo.org. A more detailed description of what the Team does is in the process of being developed and will be shared with you in the near future. There is one thing everyone can do. Have you noticed that someone hasn't been in church recently? Give them a phone call or send them a card. A print copy of the church directory can be requested from Heather Best, church administrator. Members and friends can also access the directory on our web page: uuyo.org. Call Heather at (330) 746-3067 to get the password for the online directory. Thanks, UUYO Family!



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. Cost: \$30.

Since February, we have been offering two UU Leadership Institute classes as small group gatherings. You are invited to join them anytime they are offered whether you attended previous sessions or not.

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, 6:30 - 8pm (Time may vary.)

Membership Ministry 141

Alternate Tuesdays, 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.

Reflections

Happy April!

Well, the Social Action Con turned out to be quite successful! The youth heard from the League of Women Voters, and then went out into the community to try and get people to register to vote. A group of youth went to YSU, one group canvassed the North Side, and two groups canvassed Struthers. There was lots of positive feedback from the adult volunteers who took the youth around, and the youth seemed pleased as well.



A HUGE Thank UU to all of the UUYO helpers that made the event successful- especially in the food arena. Special thanks to Louisa Berger, Liz Hill, and Alison Locketti for shopping in at least 4 different stores to buy nearly \$900 worth of food to feed the masses. Special thanks also to Molly Toth, Wendy Pfrenger, Liz Hill, Alison Locketti, Lowell Satre, Ellen Satre, Jeanne Tucker, Marguerite Felice, Clayton Henderson, Monica Hite, husband Paul Hite, Scott Baker, Maya Baker, and Josh Baker for help at meals - cooking, serving, and cleaning. It was a huge undertaking, but it turned out to be a great community-building activity for us, as well as an outreach to the larger UU community as the youth reached out to the larger Youngstown community. This, my friends, is another example of our interdependent web of existence!

As of now, there is nothing particularly pressing happening in April. Let's call it the calm before the end-of-the-year storm! Earth Day is in April, as is the Animal Blessing, though they will both be celebrated the same day at church.

Looking ahead to May, there is an opportunity for an RE outing. Easy Street Theater is putting on the musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Especially as the Intermediate Class has been studying Bibleodeon for the past two years, this will be a relevant youth group experience. The play is on May 6, 7, and 8. My hope is to have the Intermediate and High School Classes attend on one of the nights (exact date to be determined), though anyone from the congregation who would like to join us is welcome to meet us there!

--BeckyAnn Harker
Director of Religious Education

Marcellene Hawk Mayhall Concert CDs

Now you can experience the beauty of Marcellene Hawk Mayhall's piano music anytime and anywhere you like. UUYO is selling professionally recorded copies of the piano concert Marcellene presented at UUYO on 11-8-15.

CDs may be purchased from **Ellen Satre** or **Jim Converse** at the Equal Exchange coffee display or from **Heather Best** in the church office. The cost is \$10 per CD. Proceeds benefit the church.

As we look forward to the quasiquicentennial, or 125th anniversary of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Youngstown in 2017, Women's Alliance brings your attention to some projects that celebrate the history of our church. In 2015 the Alliance displayed and reproduced a unique painting of our church by the artist Edward Dixon McDonald. The original painting hangs in the church, but the image is still available in the form of reproduction prints in various sizes and as blank note cards, in color or black and white.

We also discovered a treasure trove of UUYO recipes in the form of a cookbook produced some years ago. Return with us now, through this cookbook, to those wonderful potlucks we all enjoyed in Channing Hall.



Painting

5x7:	\$5.00
8x10:	\$9.00
11x14:	\$20.00
16x20:	\$40.00

Mounting on cardboard backing available at extra charge (\$6.50 for 16x20)

Notecards

Pack of 5, color or black & white \$10.00

Cookbook

Pick up at church: \$5.00

Mail: \$10.00

Contact: **Eugenia Pierce** 330-503-4039,

Louisa Berger 330-746-6897, or Church Office 330-746-3067.



General Assembly

From June 22-26 the Unitarian Universalist Association will hold its annual convention, known as "General Assembly" in Columbus, OH. This is a chance for UUs from all over the U.S. and beyond to come together for fellowship and to learn more about our uncommon denomination.

It's been a while since I was able to attend GA, and I miss it. For six straight years my friend Jack Brizzi and I attended UU gatherings in Ft. Worth, St. Louis, Ft. Lauderdale, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, and Charlotte. In each city we were treated to outstanding programming by the UUA.

These conventions is what began my interest in writing and as I learned more how to put into words what I experienced it became second nature to me, plus the fact that I enjoyed the atmosphere that is GA, it became a labor of love. Thanks to a former minister here I was asked to be a delegate and report back on my time at the convention. I had plenty of material to work with; the workshops, lectures, speeches, local events, plus meeting and learning from other UUs from across the country.

The focus of GA is to renew our commitment with each other each year and to focus on what our congregations around the country are doing to propel our denomination forward. There is also a business side of GA where congregations can vote on issues, resolutions are presented and when needed elect officers just like any other convention. Certain individuals are singled out for recognition and even whole congregations and districts can receive awards.

The exhibit hall is where you can find everything UU, from T-shirts to mugs, jewelry, buttons, bumper stickers and the like. You can also visit information booths to learn about service organizations, different congregations and their special projects and last but not least the Beacon Press exhibit and book sale. Beacon Press is the publishing house for the denomination. That first year I recall buying a book by Forrest Church, former minister of All Souls Unitarian in Manhattan, NYC. Mr. Church is no longer with us and the new minister there is Galen Guengerich. All Souls is one of the largest and most influential churches in the country and one of its former members was the writer Herman Melville. That book was an epiphany in my spiritual journey.

This year I can only attend the last two days of GA, June 25-26. That Sat. is the Ware Lecture and Sunday is the closing ceremony. The Ware Lecture is considered the keynote address of the convention and is always a big deal do to the star power of the speaker. Past speakers include such luminaires as Martin Luther King, Norman Lear, Karen Armstrong, Buckminster Fuller, Van Jones, Morris Dees, Mary Oliver, Elaine Pagels, Kurt Vonnegut, Rollo May, and this year Krista Tippett of NPR.

I'd like to especially recommend to our new members not familiar with GA about how enriching this five-day affair is and to urge you to attend one as soon as you can. Once you do you will discover why you were drawn to this unusual faith that values the most important principles responsible for a loving, caring people. To find out more information about General Assembly, please go to <http://www.uua.org/ga>.

Jim Rogers

April 2016 UUYO Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Rev Matt's Sabbatical Begins 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting (BR) 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Peer to Peer (SL)	4	5 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 6:30 pm Membership Ministry 141 (YR) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	6 7:00 pm Board Meeting (BR)	7	8	9 12:30 pm Women's Alliance Meeting 1:00 pm Rental (CH & Kitchen)
10 9:30 am Hospitality Team 2 Refresher Training & Start 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Beatitude House Charity Basketball (Ursuline High School) 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Peer to Peer	11 6:30 pm Healthy Leadership 101 (BR)	12 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	13	14	15	16 6:00 pm Rental (CH)
17 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Peer to Peer (SL)	18	19 Newsletter Submission Deadline 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 6:30 pm Membership Ministry 141 (YR) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	20 7:15 pm Book Club	21 6:00 pm ACTION Fundraiser & Banquet (Mt Carmel)	22	23
24 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Newcomers' Circle (SL) 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Peer to Peer (SL)	25	26 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	27	28	29 10:00 am Newsletter Prep	30