

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
1105 Elm St.
Youngstown, OH 44505 330.746.3067

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

Time Dated Material

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Staff:

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

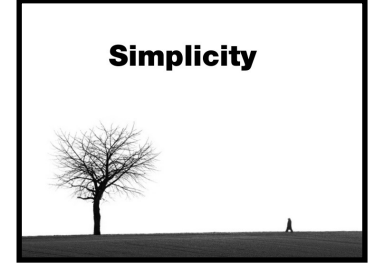
UUUO The Steel Chalice
unitarian universalist church VOL. 71, No. 6, June 2016
YOUNGSTOWN OHIO

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

June Worship Theme: “Simplicity”

It’s not just society that celebrates status, stuff and over-scheduled lives; we cling to them as well. The busyness of our lives is not just overwhelming; it’s also seductive. Over-scheduled lives don’t just tip us over; they tempt us.

They promise us power, affirmation and proof that we are of more worth than the one standing next to us. There is a reason we go on and on about how busy we are. We aren’t just complaining; we’re bragging. To be busy is to have made it. To be over-committed is to be wanted and needed. No wonder we have such a hard time giving it all up.



June 5 - "Flower Service: Re-creation, Revolution and the Lovely Rose"

Flowers symbolize transformation. Whether it is romance or revolution, alchemy or apocalypse historic movements have used flowers as the centerpiece to prompt social action. How do flowers transform you?



Worship Leader: Sarah Lowry
Worship Associate: Gary Davenport
Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

June 12 - "Beginnings, Endings, & Transitions"

Rev. Matt returns from sabbatical and reflects on his travels. We celebrate Kristina's completion of her internship with us, and her graduation from seminary. At the end of this service, we will transition from the Sanctuary downstairs to Channing Hall for the summer; our Church Picnic will follow this service.



Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh
Worship Associate: John Gulgas
Chalice Lighter: Christine Gulgas
Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

June 19 - "Fast Train to Nowhere"

Spiritual growth is often compared to a journey, but what happens if you take the wrong train? Or, alternatively, never even figure out how to leave the station? We will explore the routemaps and timetables available to us as we travel down the paths of our spiritual journeys.



Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh
Musician: Nanette Kaplan Solomon

June 26 - "A Summer Day"

Crickets and lightning bugs. Thunderstorms and fireworks. Popsicles and Coppertone. Summer's simple pleasures invite us to slow down, take a deep breath of fresh air, and regard the world around us with wonder. We'll welcome summer and its many blessings with a Popsicle communion to celebrate the season. (Sugar-free Popsicles will be available.)



Worship Leader: Molly Toth
Worship Associate: Ben Barnes
Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

LEADERS:

Members of the Board of Trustees

Andy Crabb, President
Sarah Lowry, Secretary
Louisa Berger, Treasurer
Tom Beck
Gerard Kelly
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
Karen Lapidus, Membership

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:

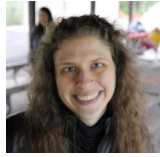
- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and use of the democratic process 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

Dear Members and Friends of UUYO,

It's hard to believe that this will be my final newsletter column... And I'm not sure what to say! There is so much to say and at the same time a sense that the things that needed to be said already have been.



June 12 is the day my internship will end. Rev. Matt and I will be marking this somehow in the worship service that day – and whatever it ends up being, I'm looking forward to it and to you being there to celebrate with us. I am also planning to come to the all-church auction on June 18, so if you can't make it on the 12th, I might see you then. (Get your tickets in advance for \$15 each!)

It was such a treat to get to share some of your history with you on May 22. There's plenty more where that came from, and I hope that opportunities will present themselves so that I can share more of what I've learned with you. The history of UUYO is rich and it would be great to see more work being done around it! With your 125-year anniversary coming next year, it's the perfect time to dig in again!

For those wondering what's next for me, I'll be beginning my one-year chaplaincy residency at the Cleveland VA Medical Center in October. Some of you may remember that I did a single unit of chaplaincy education there before. I'm really looking forward to going back and learning more – it is a fantastic learning environment and I know that it will do me good and I will do good there. In the meantime, and possible during my residency, I'll be looking for preaching opportunities throughout the area, as well as weddings and memorial services.

There are so many things going well right now – and there are also things that I hope you continue to work on. The Hospitality Teams are just a great success – you all really have that down. Work around membership is getting even better – and I know that will continue (and I am really excited for you)! Stewardship is picking up – which is such a joy to see (as someone who did stewardship for 4 years in my home congregation.) The board does great work. Worship is excellent – this is something this congregation has taken pride in for generations and it really shows! Lay pastoral care has become better organized – more people are involved and communications have improved.

I hope that you continue to focus on membership – not only bringing more people in and inspiring them to stay, but also learning more about Unitarian Universalism on a wider scale and deepening your spiritual lives through conversation and other kinds of engagement (through film or other media, for example). This will deepen you individually and as a community. I hope you continue to do social justice work – there is so much work that can be done in the community and it has been awesome to watch you get involved in a variety of causes. I hope you continue to deepen your shared ministries – with fundraising and stewardship, pastoral care, worship (and music coordination), hospitality, caring for the building and grounds and everything inside. Ministry takes many different forms and shapes – and remembering that caring for the building, for example, is a ministry of welcome and hospitality and investment in the present as well as the past and future is important. Celebrate who you are – you are worth celebrating!

As always, I look forward to seeing you in church for the next few weeks before my internship ends!

In faith and with love, **Kristina Spaude**

Matt's Musings

Meditation has long been a core spiritual practice for me. When I first encountered meditation over 30 years ago, it was presented as this arduous, challenging practice. You sat rigidly, and forced the mind into stillness. It took effort; I was a complete failure at stilling my wandering monkey mind. Little wonder that I abandoned the practice. While I tried meditation in various forms over the next couple decades, it just didn't "stick."

But about fifteen years ago, I finally was able to make meditation a consistent daily morning activity. I changed my perspective. I've now come to accept that the wandering mind is part of the practice. Failure is not just an option, it is welcomed. For in failure we get the gift of bringing the mind gently back to the practice, without judgment or criticism. We simply return to focus, and begin again.

Seen this way, meditation can be metaphor for life. I look over the arc of my life and see its string of failures -- school rejections, job terminations, broken relationships, financial losses, foolish actions, bad decisions. When these failures come to mind, I have too often berated myself for poor choices, weaknesses, and inadequacies.

I'm trying now to practice acceptance, reflecting that these failures are part of life. For the practice is to hold our failing, imperfect selves with kindness and affection. The practice is to remind ourselves that we would not be here, at our places on the path, had we not had all our experiences in totality, good and bad.

Such a practice of life invites an open, curious stance to life. What's next? What now? When we're able to accept, whatever may come, we are more courageous, willing to take risks, and chance failure. We become more accepting of others, in their successes or failures, seeing them without judgment, envy or blame. We begin to see more clearly the intertwined nature of the paths of all people, all beings, all acceptable, and thus glimpse the underlying unity of life.

My sabbatical has given me the gift of time to relax, read, reflect, and write; to go deeper in my own spiritual exploration. I am grateful that UUYO has been able to offer me the gift of sabbatical time.

I've avoided being engaged with church activities while on sabbatical; Kristina has handled pastoral and other concerns as Sabbatical Minister. However, I've been in touch with Kristina and I'm glad to see the UUYO community is energetic and thriving. The Auction is coming together wonderfully, and I encourage you to support it and attend, for Auction dinners and events are a great way to make and deepen friendships in the church. I also invite you to consider attending UU General Assembly, even for a day, joining some of the UUYO folks that are going, and experiencing the larger UU world. I look forward to seeing you in early June.

Bits from the Board

THE ALL-CHURCH FUNRAISING TALENT AUCTION IS JUNE 18, 6:30-10pm. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS !



Our first Fun!Raising event will be the All-Church Talent Auction scheduled for June 18th at the Church. Along with a talent auction featuring services and activities provided by your fellow UUYOers, we'll have prizes, silent auction baskets and items donated by businesses and members of the congregation, a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, raffle prizes and door prizes.

Tickets are a suggested donation of \$15 per person in advance or \$20 at the door. You can purchase your tickets in advance after Church during Coffee Hour.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP !

Can you donate auction items or service offerings? Some church members have suggested they'd like to see these services: babysitting, gluten free cooking lessons, wine classes, sausage making, computer lessons, handyman services, rototilling, landscaping and bush trimming, garden help and anything with art. Do you have other talents? Consider offering them as service items to be auctioned. Can you prepare a gift basket or do you have contacts with a business that can donate to the auction? Your help can make the event a success.

We'll need volunteers to gather auction items, prepare and serve the hors d'oeuvres, help set up and take down the chairs and tables and decorations, work the cash bar, serve as cashiers, assistants to the auctioneer ... and help with lots of other jobs big and small to make the event a success.

Talk to any Board of Trustees member to volunteer. Email Andy Crabb at president@uuyo.org or Tom Beck at TBeck@uakron.edu. You can call Tom at 330-631-5125. Tell Office Administrator Heather Best you can help so she can pass your name along to Andy or Tom. But however you do it, PLEASE VOLUNTEER TODAY !

We're calling it FUN!raising ... and it's a lot more fun when everybody helps.

Andy Crabb

Connection Circles

We're Connecting with Simplicity in June

With a goal of building relationships and having shared meaningful experiences, we have begun a new program to give us an opportunity to spend time together considering our monthly worship themes.

We will be holding "Connection Circles" during coffee hour on the first Sunday of the month. All will be invited to sit with 3-4 people for 20-30 minutes or so to consider a few of the questions from the materials that the church receives from the theme-based ministry program of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Sarah Lown, our Worship Associate Coordinator, will be choosing the questions.

Our first session last month connected many folks over coffee and snacks to consider "Blessings." June's theme is "Simplicity." The discussion questions will be available at the small tables in Channing Hall. Anyone who wishes to participate may sit at a table and start a conversation with those that join them.

Participation in the Connections Circles is optional, of course. Questions? Contact me at kluure@prodigy.net

Karen Lapidus

Membership Coordinator

Building and Grounds Work Party

Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 9am to 1pm

It has been several months since the last B&G event so there are plenty of jobs, both indoors and out, for willing hands to tackle. Lunch (vegetarian option will be included) will be provided.



At 12:30pm there will be a meeting of the **Kitchen Team** where we will discuss changing the focus from just the kitchen to building-wide oversight. Contact **Louisa Berger** at (330)746-6897 for more information.

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 in Channing Hall.

Stretch and Creative Movement

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

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 Share the Plate recipient selected for June, 2016, is [The Ursuline Sisters HIV/AIDS Ministry](#). The Sisters, inspired by faith, collaborate with community resources to empower and affirm adults and children touched by HIV/AIDS. The Ursuline Sisters HIV/AIDS Ministry provides services at three locations: the Ursuline Motherhouse and [Educational Center](#) in Canfield; Casa Madre, the children's program site in Youngstown; and the Comprehensive Care Center. Services include support groups, pastoral visitation to homes, hospitals and prisons, patient advocacy, and a speaker's bureau. The [Guardian Angel Café](#) is a monthly dinner/social event for the HIV community and their guests. [Angela's Place](#) is a non-food pantry of household items and personal supplies distributed to individuals and families each month, along with a [food pantry](#) from which are distributed bags of food. The Comprehensive Care Center is an adult and pediatric [HIV clinic](#) and service center providing HIV and related health care and both medical and psycho-social support services to patients regardless of ability to pay. Casa Madre is a renovated triplex where children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS are nurtured, challenged, encouraged, mentored and enriched.

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.

For more information, please go to <http://www.uua.org/ga>.

Jim Rogers

Writing as Spiritual Practice
Monday June 13, 7 - 8:30pm, Board Room

We'll reflect on the June worship theme, which will be "Simplicity." 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.



Hospitality Team Schedule for the Month of June:

Team 4 is responsible for June 5, 12, 19, and 26.

Hospitality Team 4

Jan Elias: Communicator

Ben Barnes: Facilitator

Louisa & Martin Berger Heather Best

Joan Bushey Gary Davenport

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).

Shrek, The Musical

Jack Brizzi, Sr., invites you to a July 17 performance of "Shrek, The Musical" starting at 8 PM at the Trumbull Campus Theater. Theater tickets are available from Jack for free, though a \$10 donation to the talent auction would be appreciated. You are also welcome to join the group for dinner at Enzo's restaurant at 6 PM. Please see **Jack Brizzi** or call him at 330-392-3157 if you would like tickets or additional information.

Thank UUs

A big thanks to **Martin Berger, Marguerite Felice, Clayton Henderson, Kadey Kimpel, Roger LaFontaine, Bob Seibold**, and **Anita Wesler** for their help beautifying the church grounds at the May 28 work party.

Annual Church Picnic—Sunday, June 12, 12:30pm

The annual UUYO picnic will be held June 12, 2016 from 12:30 pm 'til dark at the Chestnut Hill Pavilion in Mill Creek Park. Bring a dish to share, cold drinks, and your own table settings. We will make sure to have a fire going - so bring hot dogs, hamburgers or other items for the grill if you wish.



Bring sports equipment and any board or card games you enjoy. The site has a playground area with a sandbox, a lawn area for Frisbee, badminton and other sports, and covered picnic tables for dining and playing board games or cards.

Chestnut Hill Pavilion **is** accessible from either Bears Den Rd. or Canfield Rd.

If you are coming from Church:

1. Head south on Fifth Avenue
2. Continue onto Mahoning Avenue
3. Make a left onto Glenwood Avenue
4. At Canfield Road (Rt.62) make a right
5. Cross the bridge near Lanterman's Mill and turn right on Chestnut Hill Drive

Come and enjoy each other's company for a relaxing afternoon and evening.

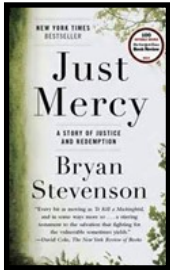


Women's Alliance

Women's Alliance will be on hiatus for the summer, resuming meetings in September, 2016.

Book Club - Wednesday, June 15 at 7:15pm

The UUYO Book Group will meet at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at the home of Melissa Smith.



In June we will discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. This title is the current UUA Common Read selection. A Common Read “invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.”

The Book Group will not meet over the summer, but will gather again on September 21st to talk about Thomas Mann’s *The Magic Mountain*, described as: “a great 1924 novel, long acclaimed as a masterly synthesis of the intellectual history of early 20th-century Europe and for its prescient scrutiny of elements in the German national character that had, and would again, find expression in the calamitous form of the world war.” In 2011 a reviewer in the *Guardian* said: “The entire work is suffused with a sly and gentle humour, making it an absolute delight to read. ... A book I return to every couple of years, *The Magic Mountain* is simply one of the greatest novels ever written.”

The summer selection is over 700 pages in length so it will definitely keep your beach blanket from blowing away. The John E.

Newcomers' Circle—Sunday, June 26 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 **Karen Lapidus** (Kluure@prodigy.net) for more information.

Reflections

Wow! The end of the year is already here! It really has been a great year! This is the time of the year when we look back on what worked, and what didn't, and we take a moment to thank the people who have made this program run so well! I have to say, that I think this year was the smoothest running. Our new rotation schedule went very smoothly. I really enjoyed doing the Children's Chapel the first Sunday of every month. The children seemed to enjoy it too. Then the teachers rotated in or out, teaching only 2-3 weeks every other month. I think it was a success, and plan to do it again next year!



We had our Teacher Appreciation Breakfast on May 22, as a way to thank the volunteers who have committed their time and talents with our kids every other month. They were publicly thanked during the service that followed, but in case you missed it, I want to thank them again here. Our fabulous teaching team consisted of:

PreK/K- Hope Lovrinoff-Moran, Alicia Baker
1st-3rd- Mark Vance, Scott Baker
4th-7th- Stephanie Crabb, Ralph Malmer
8th-12th- Liz Hill, Alison Locketti

And, deserving a special mention is Stephanie Crabb, who is stepping down from her teaching role after 5 years of dedicated service. We have been very lucky to have her on the team for so long!

As we look toward summer, here are some dates you might like to know:

*June 12th- last day of RE- room parties, followed by All-Church Picnic

*September 11th- Start of RE (first Sunday after Labor Day)

***I do not typically work during the summer months. I will be officially off from June 13 until August 14.

The theme of RE this summer will be DIY-RE. If you have any special skills or talents that kids could learn how to do themselves, please let me know! We already have crystal-growing, mason jar aquariums, and no-slip socks on the line for the summer! I wonder what other talents will emerge!

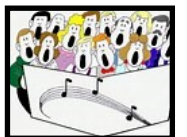
Have a great summer! I'll see you next fall!

--BeckyAnn Harker

Singing before the Service: Sundays 10:40am

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

Marcellene Hawk Mayhall or Beth Foster will play piano.



June 2016 UUYO Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 10:00 am Building and Grounds Work Party & Kitchen Team Meeting
5 Hospitality Team 4 starts 12:15 pm Connection Circles - Simplicity 9:15 am Hospitality Team Refresher for Team #4 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR)	6	7 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	8 7:00 pm UUYO Board Meeting (BR)	9	10	11 12:00 pm Rental (CH)
12 Annual Church Picnic 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Peer to Peer (SL)	13 7:00 pm Writing as Spiritual Practice (BR)	14 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	15 Auction Set-Up 7:15 pm Book Club Meeting at Melissa Smith's	16 Auction set-up	17	18 6:00 pm All Church Auction (CH)
19 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR)	20	21 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	22 General Assembly in Columbus	23 General Assembly in Columbus	24 General Assembly in Columbus	25 General Assembly in Columbus Rental
26 General Assembly in Columbus 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Newcomers' Circle 6:00 pm Frack Free (BR) 6:00 pm Ohio CAN Peer to Peer (SL)	27	28 5:30 pm Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 7:30 pm AA (CC)	29	30		