



The Steel Chalice

October, 2016

Welcome to UUYO's New Emailed Newsletter

We are saving money, time, and trees by shifting to an emailed newsletter. This format should be easy to read on computers, tablets and phones.

We no longer mail a paper newsletter, except to those who request it.

You can access a version that is more easily read when printed out.

[Click here to view a printable version.](#)

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October Worship Theme: "Healing"

This month, we focus not so much on physical healing as on spiritual healing of both the self and the community. When the promises we make to each other (those covenants - last month's theme) get broken, what do we do to make things right? When we fail, when others hurt or mistreat us, how do we find healing? How do we heal brokenness and pain in the community? In the nation? In the world?

Sunday, October 2: "Days of Awe"

During October UUYO is engaging with the theme of Healing. With Rosh Hashanah beginning the evening of October 2, we'll be acknowledging the Jewish High Holy Days as a time of healing. We will consider what we all might learn from this period of reflection and relationship and how we might find more awe in our every days.

Worship Leader: Kristina Spaude

Worship Associate: Gina Vance

Sunday, October 9: "Healing Communities"

We are individual people connected together by communities - towns, schools, work, interests, and communities of identity. Yet we think of health and healing as something we do as individuals. How can our communities help us heal? Youth from the UU Regional Youth Con who are meeting at UUYO this weekend are working with Rev. Matt in creating and leading this service.

Worship Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Ralph Malmer

Sunday, October 16: "A Chance to

Love: Syrian Refugees in Youngstown"

In a time of political and religious tension, Youngstown is figuring out how to welcome Syrian refugees to the community. As UUs, we believe everyone should be treated with dignity—but how do we enact that belief?

Worship Leaders: Gary Davenport and Sarah Lowry

Sunday, October 23: "Tikkun Olam - To Repair the World"

In the Kabbalah, the mystical teachings of Judaism, there is a story that God created the world out of vessels of light made from parts of God's essence. But some vessels shattered and the shards, representing brokenness, still carry power and need to be reunited with God. Both mystical and practical effort are required to repair the world.

Moving beyond the story, we consider the nature of brokenness in our world, our role as humans in that brokenness, and how we might repair the world. What does repair look like? What are we called to do? Undeniably, this is a most urgent topic in these times.

Worship Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Sarah Lown

Sunday, October 30: "You Would Know the Secret of Death - Día De Los Muertos"

Unitarian Universalism has little to say about death and afterlife compared to most other religions. Indeed, we are left to ponder on our own, or not, as we like. But today, we'll explore death, and engage in a Day of the Dead ritual.

You are encouraged to bring small remembrances (photo, momento, etc.) of those around you who died in the last year or so, for our ritual.

Worship Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Christine Gulgas



Bits from the Board

The Board is spearheading plans for an active and exciting 2017. Among the many things we are working on is the new electronic newsletter that we hope you are reading right now! Our goal is to save money, trees and some of Heather's time. Those who still want a hard

copy version will be accommodated, just let the office know – but please give the electronic version a try first, even if you aren't much of a fan of such things. It is mobile friendly so you can read it on your Apple or Android phone and can also view it on tablets and PCs – both fruit (Apple) and nut (Microsoft) varieties. Check it out and let us know what you think.

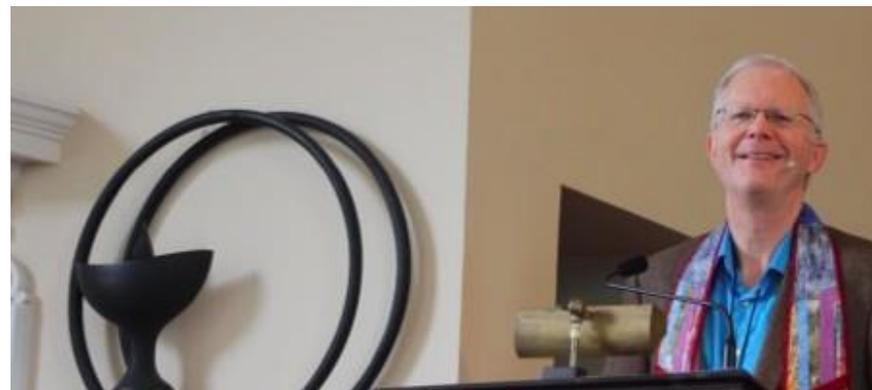
Planning has started for the 125th anniversary celebration coming up next year. The theme is that UUYO is "A Beacon of Discovery and Service in the Mahoning Valley." Our primary focus will be to celebrate how much this church has accomplished in the community including "In Praise of the Arts," incubating other organizations such as Treez Please, Farmer's Market and a Montessori School. Former ministers, including Ed Searl and Susan Frederick-Gray, will be invited to join us in this celebration. There will also be projects big and small to improve the building and grounds with focused projects that make our presence in the building look vibrant and active.

Continuing our tradition of service to the community, Gary Davenport is organizing two more CQE (Certificate of Qualification for Employment) clinics planned for Nov. 5 and Dec. 3 (both Saturdays.) Our country has been very efficient at putting people in prison but very bad at helping them reintegrate into society when they are released. The CQE clinics are designed to make it easier for returning citizens to get a job by protecting potential employers from liability concerns. Other service groups may be joining in this effort which has already been very successful in its first round at UUYO.

Fun!raising activities continue, with a Book and Collectables sale in October and additional activities in 2017.

These are just a few examples. Please look for opportunities to get involved. If you don't see the opportunities you want to see, grab a friend or two and tell us what you need to make it happen. Join us as we celebrate where we've been, where we are, and how we will position UUYO to grow in its community impact in the future.

Ralph Malmer



Matt's Musings

I have just returned from our Minister's Gathering at Salt Fork State Park. I take the more scenic drive, down highway 11 to 7 along the river, and west on 22, which becomes a twisty two-lane road past farms and woods. But the landscape along 22 has changed, as I pass new fracking wells, pipelines, separators, and [gas processing plants](#) along the road. This, after driving underneath the massive [coal power plant](#) that crosses highway 7 in Stratton, but that's an older story.

I feel the uneasy juxtaposition of the natural world and the human created world along this roadway, two different worlds as anxious neighbors. My unease increases as I gradually become aware that the trees are all still that late-summer forest green. There are none of the colors of fall, not even the occasional blaze of precocious turning. This is not as I remember. In previous drives to these gatherings this same last week of September, fall was noticeably under way, with early yellows and oranges well in display.

We live in strange times. We witness a presidential debate like none other, the latest event in a presidential race like none other. Coarse language and blatant lying seem to be the new normal in our political world. Racism, misogyny, invitations to gun violence, even fat-shaming are tolerable now. Our government narrowly averts shutdown, but that's hardly news.

The international news seems little better. The Syrian war becomes more brutal, with civilians the only real losers. Our networked world is home to an undeclared cyberwar, with email providers, political parties, even the [NSA](#) under attack. This all may be minor stuff compared to the possibility of old-style hot war, between India and Pakistan, with [nuclear exchange](#) a real possibility.

It feels almost as if the shadow side of our collective personality has reared up and exposed itself. Psychologist Carl Jung combined Freud's idea of the shadow part of consciousness with Jung's idea that we might all share a collective consciousness to conclude that we also might also share a [collective unconscious](#). This shared unconscious manifests in dreams, archetypal images, and in our instinctual actions. A psychologist friend notes that many of her patients have

recently reported similar apocalyptic dreams. I'm not sure what to make of this, being both skeptical and fascinated with Jungian theory.

Yet in all this we look for hope. How does anyone find hope in all this despair? Where is hope, at all? These are questions some of you have asked me, in different words. certainly.

My short answer is that finding hope is not easy. To find hope, I must reach beyond the rational part of my mind, to the somewhat more mysterious and less comfortable places of my faith. I remind myself that faith's original meaning was more like the word 'trust'. I trust that we have been through much in the past, and we can get through much in the future. I trust also that we are more likely to find hope in community, especially in communities like this church. Finally, I trust that whatever we each can do, however small, will begin to bend the arc of the universe toward justice, and toward peace, and toward possibility.

And the trees? In writing this article, I [learned](#) that the trees are late to turn color this year because they are healthy from good rains earlier in the year. We should see exceptional fall colors this year, a minor blessing, but one for which I will be grateful.

See you in church!
Rev. Matt Alspaugh



REflections

Fall is such a busy time! With school and church beginning again, there are many events and activities in which to be involved. At UUYO, that is no exception. Just in October we have the following events:

Sunday, October 2: The 6th Annual Non-Violence Parade beginning at 3:00. This will be the 3rd year UUYO has participated. In Children's Chapel that day, we will be making Pinwheels for Peace which we can carry with us in the parade.

Friday, October 7-Monday October 10: Regional Youth Con. High school youth from around our region (what used to be the Ohio-Meadville, Joseph Priestly, St. Lawrence, and Metro New York Districts) will be attending the Con hosted here at UUYO. This Con is intended for youth with leadership roles within their YACs (Youth-Adult Committees). While none of our high school youth have attended a Con before, and will not be attending this one, our church is the most

centrally located within the region that can host youth events, since PA has changed laws which make it much more difficult to host youth events there. Be aware that there will be about 80 extra young people at church on Oct. 9, and they will be contributing to the service that day!

Sunday, October 30- 5th Sunday Our first "5th Sunday" will take place on October 30. While this is the day before Halloween, we only get three 5th Sundays per year. This is when we will dedicate time to do a Social Justice project. Our focus this year is on racial justice, and we will start on this Sunday with an educational component to better prepare us for the work we will do the rest of the year.

Also in October, we begin our second Coming of Age Program of my tenure. This year, we have 3 high school youth who will participate. The format will be different, to accommodate the smaller group size, as well as everyone's busy schedules. The youth will meet on the first Sunday of the month while the rest of us are doing Children's Chapel. They will also have 3 overnight workshops. On these nights, the middle school youth will also be invited to participate in overnight events, though not in the Coming of Age curriculum. Coming of Age is a rite of passage common in UU churches, which honors this stage of youthhood, and is a time for youth to explore religion and spirituality, and will end up writing their own faith statement, or credo.

This is all in addition to all of the other wonderful things going on at church that you will read about in other sections of this newsletter!

BeckyAnn Harker
Director of Religious Education

October Events

10/2/16 Shared Ministry Fair 12:30pm
10/2/16 Sixth Annual Non-Violence Parade 3-5pm
10/2/16 Frack Free (BR) 6pm
10/4/16 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
10/4/16 AA (CC) 7:30pm
10/7 to 10/10/16 Regional Youth Con at UUYO
10/8/16 Women's Alliance 12:30pm
10/9/16 Connection Circles (CH) 12:30pm
10/9/16 Crop Walk (CH) 1:30pm
10/9/16 Frack Free (BR) 6pm
10/11/16 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
10/11/16 Writing as Spiritual Practice (BR) 7pm
10/11/16 AA (CC) 7:30pm
10/12/16 UUYO Board Meeting (BR) 7pm
10/13/16 The Salon (SL) 6pm
10/15/16 Neighborhood Clean-Up
10/15/16 Work Party (AC) 8:30am-4pm
10/15/16 Circle Suppers
10/16/16 Belonging to UUYO (CH) 1pm
10/16/16 Frack Free (BR) 6pm
10/18/16 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
10/18/16 AA (CC) 7:30pm
10/19-10/20 Book & Collectables Sale SET-UP (AC)
10/21/16 Private Preview Book & Collectables Sale (Members and Friends Only) 7-9pm
10/22/16 Book & Collectables Sale (AC) 8am-3pm

10/23/16 Hospitality Team 1 Starts
10/23/16 Frack Free (BR) 6pm
10/25/16 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
10/25/16 AA (CC) 7:30pm
10/26/16 Explorations (SL) 7pm
10/30/16 Speaking to be Understood 12:30pm
10/30/16 Frack Free (BR) 6pm

Coffee with the Minister

I'm holding 'office hours' in our local coffee shop, the newly opened Cultivate Café at 901 Elm St. I will be there on Tuesdays 11am-1pm October 4, 11, and 25. Drop on by, have a cup of coffee or a snack, and chat!

Rev. Matt

Volunteer Fair

Sunday October 2, 12:15pm, Channing Hall

We depend on each other -- as volunteers -- to support the Shared Ministry that keeps UUYO strong and vital.

At our Fair on Sunday, you'll have a chance to learn about some opportunities for service from our Board, Staff, and Team Leaders. We will gladly answer questions, and make connections. Don't worry - there will be no 'hard sell', just a chance to talk, explore, and perhaps find ways to help.



Sixth Annual Non-Violence Parade

Sunday October 2, 3-5pm

Everyone from UUYO -- especially our parents and children -- are invited to walk in the 6th Annual Non-Violence Parade. This event will take place in downtown Youngstown. The parade will start on West Wood and Wick streets and proceed downtown. There will be a rally at the Covelli Center after the parade.

Please contact Becky Ann Harker (dre@uuyo.org) or Rev. Matt for more information.

Women's Alliance Meeting

Saturday, October 8, 12:30 PM

Women's Alliance will meet on October 8, 2016 at Muscarella's Cafe Italia, 500 W. Main St., Sharpsville, PA 16150, at 12:30 P.M. The easiest way to get there is to take I-80 East to Rt. 18 North (heading to

Hermitage, PA). Follow 18 through Hermitage to Lamor Rd. Turn left (West). Lamor Rd. will turn into S. Walnut St. Turn left onto W. Main St. About 5 short blocks, Muscarella's is on your right. Call Eugenia for info at 330-953-3086 or 330-503-4039.

Connections Circles

Sunday, October 9, after service

Our Connections Circles are small table discussions relating to the topic of the month, which for October is "Healing." We'll explore how we can heal ourselves, each other, and help heal the world. A big topic, rich for discussion!

This particular Circle is special, as our tables will include the youth from the Central East Regional Youth Con who are meeting at our church this weekend. Pull up a chair and join us!

Writing as Spiritual Practice

Tuesday October 11, 7-8:30pm, Board Room

We'll reflect on the October worship theme, "Healing."

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).

Note that the meeting day has shifted to Tuesday from Monday.



UUYO Work Party

Saturday, October 15

On Saturday, October 15, the church will host a neighborhood work day where we will clean up a couple of nearby properties and have lunch afterward.

You can join the cleanup team, doing work around the church grounds and newly-acquired parking lot across the street from us, or the kitchen team, who will serve a delicious lunch for everyone.

We will begin with coffee and bagels at 8:30am sharp. Contact Gary Davenport Sundays after service or call him at (330) 518-7037, or contact Rev. Matt.

The schedule for the day:

8:30 - 9:00 coffee, bagels, prep

9:00 - 11:00 work in the neighborhood

11:00 - 12:00 lunch and fellowship

We hope you can join us as we work to clean up our property for the Fall and make our neighborhood a better place.

Belonging to UUYO

Sunday, October 16 from 1-5pm

If you are someone who is considering joining the church or if you seek to learn more about UUYO and become more involved, you will not want to miss this afternoon of learning and fellowship.

The Reverend Matt Alspaugh and Membership Coordinator, Karen Lapidus will co-lead a program about what we believe, how the church functions, where we come from and where we are going. The program includes a balance of listening and sharing, as well as some fun and engaging activities.

A pizza and salad lunch will be served at 1:00pm. Please RSVP to Karen at kluure@prodigy.net no later than October 9th.

Getting Closer! UUYO's Book and

Collectable Sale

Saturday, October 22, 8 am to 3 pm.

Our Book and Collectable Sale will be held Saturday, October 22, 8 am to 3 pm. The Saturday sale is open to the public and will include hardcover and paperback books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, collectables, art, jewelry, watches, and antiques. Snacks and baked goods will be available for purchase, along with Equal Exchange coffee

items. Sales will be on a cash and carry basis.

We need your donations of books and collectable items to make this a big success and to attract lots of buyers from our wider community. For more information about what kind of donations we need, see our web site here: <http://uuyo.org/books-collectables-sale-saturday-october-22/>

We're asking that you deliver any donated items to the church on specific days the week before the sale. If you need items picked up contact Liz Hill, [330-333-1619](tel:330-333-1619), liz@lizhill.net.

We also need volunteers to help out with set up and during the sale. If you have questions, or if you can help out before or during the sale, please see **Andy Crabb** at Church or contact him by email at president@uuyo.org. You can also call the church at 330-746-3067 (press option # 1 to reach the Office Administrator) to leave a message.

Spiritual Explorations

Wednesday, October 26, 7-9 PM

In this small group, we'll have discussion and exploration primarily around October's theme of Healing. We hope to have insightful and 'spirited' conversation, along with some time for group meditation.

I encourage you to read [the month's packet, which is online, here](#). To get the most out of the group, you might look particularly at the

Spiritual Exercises, and see if any one of Your Questions 'hooks' you, and think about how you might answer it.

Contact Rev. Matt for more information.

Book Club

Wednesday, October 26, 7:15 PM

The next meeting of the Book Group will take place at 7:15 pm on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at the home of Melissa Smith. This is a week later than usual as the traditional meeting time was in conflict with Book and Collectable Sale setup.

In October we will read some short stories by Flannery O'Connor. Suggested story titles include:

A Good Man is Hard to Find
The River
The Life You Save May be Your Own
A Stroke of Good Fortune
A Temple of the Holy Ghost
The Artificial Nigger
A Circle in the Fire
A Late Encounter with the Enemy
Good Country People
The Displaced Person

All of these titles should be included in O'Connor, Flannery, *Complete Stories*, Farrar, Strauss, & Giroux, 1971 or O'Connor, Flannery, *Collected Works*, Viking, 1988. The stories may also be found in other collections of O'Connor's works. Read what you can and we will discuss characters, themes, style and compare O'Connor's writing with other things we have read.

In November the book is George MacDonald Fraser's *Quartered Safe Out Here: A Recollection of the War in Burma*, a memoir of the author's wartime experiences as a soldier in Burma in the last year of World War II.

Speaking To Be Understood

Sunday, October 30, 12:30 - 1:30pm
(also November 6, 12:30 - 1:30pm)

On Sunday, Sep 7, Tom Beck (who taught communications at University of Akron) led many of our Worship Associates in an excellent workshop on how to speak to be understood. Even I (Matt), who speak nearly every Sunday, learned some new techniques for being heard and understood more clearly. We covered practices that will help us to be heard by all in the audience, as well as practices that help us communicate emotions and sentiments -- so important in a good worship experience.

This is important training for our Worship Associates, but is also open to anyone who wants to speak more clearly in public. We'll have two

identical sessions, on Sunday Oct 30 and Nov 6, 12:30 in the Sanctuary. If you cannot attend these or would prefer to work with Tom privately, we can arrange a different date. These sessions will be about an hour in length.

Matt



Hospitality Teams Schedule

Our hospitality teams do so much to make Sunday morning come together: Greet, welcome, provide coffee and treats at coffee hour. If you are interested in joining a hospitality team, please contact Linda Mohn (lmohn2005@yahoo.com). Please be sure and thank the folks on this month's teams!

Team 4: October 2, 9, and 16

- *Jan Elias – Communicator*
- *Ben Barnes – Facilitator*
- Louisa & Martin Berger
- Heather Best
- Joan Bushey
- Gary Davenport
- Marguerite Felice
- Clayton Henderson
- Roger LaFontaine
- Tim Malone
- Carole McWilson
- Eugenia & Al Pierce
- Ellen & Lowell Satre
- Mary Ellen Shutes
- Sharon Stringer

Team 1: November 6

- *Liz Hill – Communicator*
- *Jan Grigsby - Facilitator*
- Neal Edman
- Beth Foster
- Jan Grigsby
- John & Christine Gulgas
- Monica Hite
- Michealla Moore
- Marty O'Leary

- Kerry Planty
- Jim Rogers
- Peg Tomm
- Molly Toth

Chalice Lighting at UUYO

Wonder how people get invited to offer a Chalice Lighting reflection at the beginning of Sunday services? These reflections can be offered by nearly anyone who is active in our church. Most people take 2 to 3 minutes to talk of their faith journey. Others may tell of a personal experience relating to the service topic. (Upcoming themes are Healing, Story, Presence, and Prophecy.) If you would like to be considered, or want to know more, we invite you to talk with Rev. Matt or Sarah Lown.

Share the Plate

We will share our offering plate in October with Dorothy Day House of Youngstown, on Belmont. The House offers of an evening meal, coffee, a safe place to relax, access to a shower, the opportunity to plant and harvest a garden, and most of all a warm welcome with the offer of friendship and the promise of respect for everyone who walks through our doors.

Messages from the Care Team

Jack Brizzi was discharged from the hospital and is continuing his recovery from surgery at:

Signature HealthCARE of Warren
2473 North Rd NE
Warren, OH 44483
Phone: (330) 372-2251

Jack welcomes visits and phone calls.

Melissa Smith recently underwent surgery and is continuing her recovery at Park Vista. She expects to be there through Tuesday, October 4 and would welcome visitors and phone calls:

Park Vista of Youngstown
1216 5th Ave Room 305
Youngstown, OH 44504
[Phone: \(330\) 746-2944](tel:(330)746-2944)

We offer sympathy and sincere condolences to Jim, Kelly, and Matt Stone on the passing of **Judy Stone** on September 25, 2016. Judy was a longtime member of this congregation - a respected and valued presence in our midst who will be missed.

Stuff to Know

Church Calendar

The most up to date version of the church calendar is on the website. [You can view it here.](#)

Please contact the office (office@uuyo.org, 330-746-3067) if you wish to list a church event on the calendar.

Staff

Matt Alspaugh, Minister minister@uuyo.org

BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education dre@uuyo.org

Heather Best, Office Administrator office@uuyo.org

Leaders

Members of the Board of Trustees

Andy Crabb, President

Louisa Berger, Secretary

Gary Davenport, Treasurer

Tom Beck

Gerard Kelly

Sarah Lowry

Ralph Malmer

Linda Mohn

Committee Chairpersons

Martin Berger, Building and Grounds

Jeanne Tucker, Caring

Lowell Satre, Endowment
Ralph Malmer, Green Sanctuary
Linda Mohn & Carole McWilson, Hospitality
Diane Barnes, Nominating
Jan Grigsby, Welcoming Congregation
Eugenia Pierce, Women's Alliance
Sarah Lown, Worship Associates Coordinator

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to build a diverse and transformative spiritual community, help people live lives of wholeness, and promote justice, peace, and religious freedom.

Unitarian Universalist 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

Please note that Office Assistant Heather Best will be on vacation October 1 through October 9. Louisa Berger and Rev. Matt Alspaugh will be covering office duties in her absence.



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