



The Steel Chalice

April, 2017

Welcome to UUYO's Emailed Newsletter

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April Worship Theme: "Transformation"

But now that so much is changing, isn't it time for us to change? Couldn't we try to gradually develop and slowly take upon ourselves, little by little, our part in the great task of love?

- Rainer Maria Rilke

What does it mean to be a community of transformation? What is the purpose of this community anyway, but to change all of us, to help us take on the great task of love? The question, which we explore this month, is how much change, in which way, and how fast.



Sunday, April 2: "A Change of Seasons"

A congregation is always in a state of becoming. When someone new walks in the door, the community changes. When someone leaves, the community changes. But when a minister leaves, the community has an opportunity for reflection and perhaps a change in focus or direction.

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke is UUYO's Primary Contact with the Central East Region and the UUA. She also serves as Dean of the UU Leadership Institute and blogs at Growing Vital Leaders. Find out more at

<http://www.uua.org/directory/people/renee-ruchotzke>

Worship Leader: Rev. Renee Ruchotzke

Worship Associate: John Gulgas

Musician: Nanette Kaplan Solomon

Chalice Lighter: Andy Crabb

Wonderbox: BeckyAnn Harker

Sunday, April 9: "To Follow the Song in Your Heart"

If we listen closely, the song of of our hearts might just call us onto a path of transformation. In this service we give words to the songs of our hearts, and silence for it to be heard, and we also sing it out in its many variations.

Worship Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Josh Yohman

Musician: Marcellene Hawk, with our Singers

Chalice Lighter: Liz Hill

Wonderbox: BeckyAnn Harker

Sunday, April 16: "Easter - Celebrating Paradise"

We'll take ourselves back to the first century or so after Jesus' death to explore how early Christians understood Easter. We'll also celebrate communion in the style of the early Christian communities. This is a multigenerational service, welcoming children, and there will be no RE today.

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Gina Vance

Musician: Marcellene Hawk

Wonderbox: BeckyAnn Harker

Sunday, April 23: "The Spiritual Path of Science"

The worlds of religion and science have been at war for thousands of years. Is this creation a miraculous act of a divine force, or a big bang? The UU tradition has a proud legacy of embracing both camps and finding new insights. We explore the universe in an atom, the many in the one and the creative inspiration we take from discovery.

Worship Leader: Sarah Lown

Worship Associate: Jan Elias

Chalice Lighter: Audra Carlson

Music: Jeff Crouse

Sunday, April 30: "Building a New Way"

As UUs, we are called to stand on the side of love, which often means we look outward to join the struggles of others. We are joining with hundreds of other UU congregations today in looking within our own faith community to strengthen and renew our commitment to racial justice, to learn and grow together, and to come together for healing.

Worship Leaders: Matt Alspaugh and Molly Toth

Chalice Lighter: Monica Hite

Music: Jacob Vance (prelude), Marcellene Hawk



Bits from the Board

The March 2017 Board Meeting started with stunned silence when we were given the news that Matt plans to pursue his calling as an Interim Minister and will be leaving UUYO effective July 16, 2017. We were joined at the meeting by Rev. Renee Ruchotzke from Kent who serves as our primary contact with UUA Regional Staff and will assist this congregation as we plan how to move forward; she gave us an overview of the options that are available to the church and the board will be addressing these in the next few weeks and months. I want to let you know, though, how we reacted.

The shock we felt at Matt's unexpected announcement was mixed

- With feelings of pride in the way our congregation is becoming a more active and relevant location for people who find the current political and social environment challenging to their core beliefs.
- With feelings of sadness at losing the talents and companionship of Matt and Liz who are so instrumental in what we have achieved as a congregation.

- With feelings of goodwill and hope that Matt and Liz find the best place for them to be in the future; with some feelings of insecurity and questions about what happens next for UUYO.
- With feelings of challenge as we face the future with many options to consider and decisions to make.
- With feelings of optimism as we recognize that we have a group of members and friends at UUYO with amazing skills, strengths, and dedication who can work together to make a plan to move forward.
- With feelings of excitement as we recognize that we are a congregation and a community with potential!
- With determination that, now more than ever, we must continue to be the Beacon of Progressive Thinking in the Mahoning Valley.

Louisa Berger



Matts Musings

By now, most of you know that I have announced my departure from the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown. My last day will be Sunday, July 16.

We have time now to reflect on the years we've been together, to remember the good times -- and the bad times too -- and to ponder the changes ahead. We will have time to grieve, for this is a loss for all of us. For me that grieving hit me when I was helping put mailing labels on the letters that went out announcing my departure -- I pictured the

people on each label, and thought about the time we've had together, and how I'll miss you.

I will be happy to meet with any of you -- member, friend, or newly with us, returning -- in these coming months, to answer concerns or just to talk. Additionally, I will schedule group gatherings for conversation -- the first of these is a Conversation on Saying Goodbye, Wednesday evening, April 26.

My decision to depart has been a long time coming and was not an easy decision. There were many discussions between Liz and me, and other discussions with colleagues and mentors as I tried to sort out my feelings in light of the arc of my ministry with you. I first arrived as a contract minister, a green, unseasoned character, new to the parish life. With your input, I focused on specific transitional goals - welcoming, growth, social justice, and we began an amazing time together. A few years in, we decided together that you should call me as your settled minister, so that I could stay for an indefinite time in this ministry.

Over time I realized that the ministry I enjoyed most was the work I did near the beginning of my time with you. I loved the focus of that early ministry. Such focus is the essence of Interim or Developmental Ministry, a specific

kind of ministry within our faith tradition. Such ministers serve churches for a brief period -- a year or two typically -- in between longer settlements. They work with churches on specific goals, helping them address any bad habits or unhealthy behaviors that may exist, and helping them imagine a new and more expansive future for themselves. Interim and Developmental Ministers facilitate the in-between space between past and future ministry. They increase the likelihood that the church will do well with the next settled minister.

This is the kind of consulting ministry work I feel called to do at this point in my life. It's an uncertain path, for as an Interim or Developmental minister, you don't know where you might end up in a year or two. I don't yet even know where we will be next year -- the process where churches and Interim ministers chose each other opens up during April. It's risky business -- but a calculated risk, one that I hope opens up new opportunities for growth and service to our movement.

I know that dealing with a ministerial transition seems like an unwanted, unexpected burden, and I am sorry for this. Yet I have great confidence that UUYO will emerge from this transition stronger and more vibrant, with a clearer sense of who you are and where you are going. This

church is in a great position to attract the right minister, who can help lead you to be more clearly the beacon of progressive thought and spirituality in the valley.

See you in church!

Matt



*RE*lections

Welcome Spring!

It's April, and there are several calendar items I want you to be aware of:

April 2: Children's Chapel and Coming of Age Sunday.
Coming of Age will meet in Schweitzer, as usual, for the whole service. Mentors are not needed at this time, but are encouraged to make contact with their mentee sometime during this month.

April 9: Business as usual

April 16: Easter Sunday- this will be a multi-generational service, complete with a UU-style communion, and special music.

April 23: Business as usual

April 30: Animal Blessing during the service. It is also the 5th Sunday, which means it is our last Social Action Sunday of the 2016-2017 church year. Stay tuned to your weekly updates for more information!

The church year is coming closer to a close. I will be meeting with the teaching teams soon to iron out details such as the date that will end the RE year, when we might have an RE service where the Coming of Age youth can share their credos, plans for summer, etc. May's newsletter should be brimming with this exciting information! Until then, stop and smell the crocuses and enjoy the spring!

- BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education

Coffee with the Minister

Tuesdays in April, 11am - 1pm

I'm holding "office hours" in our local coffee shop, Cultivate Café at 901 Elm St, a couple blocks south of the church. I will be there on the Tuesdays in April, 11am-1pm. Drop on by, have a cup of coffee or a snack, and chat!

Rev. Matt

Easter Lilies, Daffodils, Hyacinths

Order by Tuesday April 4

Help make our sanctuary beautiful for Easter. You can order Easter lilies, daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths, which will be used to decorate the church for Easter Sunday. Then take your plants home to enjoy. Cost for all varieties: all 8" pots are \$18 and all 10" pots are \$24.

You can fill out an order form on Sunday April 2, or contact the office on Tuesday April 4.

Contact Jan Elias at jaelias@ysu.edu or 330-757-3503 with any questions.

Post Chili Cook-off Notes from Woman's Alliance

The winners of the Church's 2017 Chili Cook-Off were as follows:

Traditional: Mark Vance

Hottest: Clayton Henderson

Most Unusual: Julia Fuhrman-Davis

Best Vegan/Vegetarian: Molly Toth

Best in Show: Molly Toth

Congratulations to all of our winners. Hone your skills for next year. It was a festive and fun-filled event, enjoyed by all. Women's Alliance wants to thank everyone who helped in setting up, cleaning, washing dishes, tearing down the tables and chairs and filling all the niches with things that had to be done. Also, thank you's go out to the

Youth Group for helping. They have come to our call for several years now and we appreciate it.



April Events

4/2 Steeple Replacement Meeting (CH) 12:30pm

4/2 Progress Mahoning Valley (CH) 5:00pm

4/2 Frack Free Meeting (BR) 6:00pm

4/4 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe) 11:00am

4/4 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm

4/4 Board Meeting (BR) 6:00pm

4/4 AA (CH) 7:30pm

4/6 Singers Meeting (SA) 7:00pm

4/7 Meditation for All (YR) 6:45pm

4/8 UUYO Work Party 10:00am
4/9 Volunteer Fair (CH) 12:15pm
4/9 Worship Associates Team (YR) 12:45pm
4/9 Frack Free Meeting (BR) 6:00pm
4/11 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe) 11:00am
4/11 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm
4/11 Writing as Spiritual Practice 7:00pm
4/11 AA (CH) 7:30pm
4/13 Singers Meeting (SA) 7:00pm
4/16 Steeple Replacement Meeting (CH) 12:30pm
4/16 Frack Free Meeting (BR) 6:00pm
4/18 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe) 11:00am
4/18 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm
4/18 AA (CH) 7:30pm
4/19 Spiritual Explorations (SL) 7:00pm
4/20 ACTION Fundraiser and Banquet at St. John's
5:00pm
4/20 Singers Meeting (SA) 7:00pm
4/21 Meditation for All (YR) 6:45pm
4/22 March for Science (CH, front of church) 9:00am
(setup) 10:00am (event)
4/23 Newcomers Circle (SL) 12:15pm
4/23 Frack Free Meeting (BR) 6:00pm
4/25 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe) 11:00am
4/25 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm

4/25 AA (CH) 7:30pm 4/27 YEPS Potluck and Movie Night
5:00pm
4/26 Conversations on Saying Goodbye (SL) 7:00pm
4/27 Singers Meeting (SA) 7:00pm
4/29 Valley Voices in Action Meeting 9:00am
4/30 Frack Free Meeting (BR) 6:00pm

Steeple Replacement Meetings

Sunday, April 2 and April 16, 12:30pm, Channing Hall

A meeting was held March 19 to discuss approaches to replacing the steeple, with three approaches discussed:

1. Leave the stump roughly as-is, with perhaps some minor adornment added like a widow's walk.
2. Install a cupola.
3. Install a steeple.

The people in attendance on 3/19 wanted to have some time to think about the options before selecting one to move forward with, so we designated April 2 after the service for a follow up discussion, with April 16 being added as a final discussion to decide the details of the

selected option.

Please join us after the service on both Sundays and help us figure out what we want to do.

UUYO Singers

Thursdays in April, from 7-8pm, and
Sundays 10:30am, Sanctuary

We rehearse the hymns for the upcoming Sunday, help guide choices for future services, and sing special music. Find us around the piano in the Sanctuary. Join us -- even if you do not think you are have a singing voice!



UUYO Work Party

Saturday, April 8 at 10am

The first work party of the season is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, at 10:00 am. Rain date is April 15th.

We plan to start with a general clean-up of leaves and branches from last year, and to get a jump on weeds. We can also plan jobs for May. You can also plan to do any other work you think needs to be done. So mark your calendar, April 8, and come on down to the party. Its free, no charge. Questions - call Bob Seibold at 724-981-4791

Spring Volunteer Fair

Sunday April 9, noon, Channing Hall

Our Spring Volunteer Fair will be after the April 9 service in Channing Hall. This is a chance to talk with people who volunteer to help the church in various ways, learn about how you can help, and perhaps sign up to help. Our church depends on the Shared Ministry of people volunteering and helping out in many ways -- join us, make friends, and feel

good about helping out.

Writing as Spiritual Practice

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

We'll reflect on the April worship theme, "Transformation."
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.



Spiritual Explorations

Wednesday April 19, 7-9pm, Schweitzer Lounge

We'll explore the April theme, "What does it mean to be a community of transformation?," perhaps delving into the transformations that our church and other communities are going through. You are encouraged to look at the [April packet](#) beforehand, and try one or more of the spiritual exercises inside.

Led by Rev. Matt Alspaugh.

Where Science and Spirituality Meet Friday, April 21, 7pm, Schweitzer Lounge

Movies on the third Friday of every month from 7 to 9 pm at UUYO.

For April, we will view and discuss **The Living Matrix: A Film on the New Science of Healing**

Led by Clare Puskarczyk

Newcomers' Circle

Sunday, April 23 at 12:15 in Schweitzer Lounge

We'll be hosting what we're calling a "Newcomers' Circle". We realize that not all of you are new to Unitarian Universalism, so we think of this more as a "new" to UUYO, where people can come and talk about what brought them to the church and what questions they might have. We will meet in the Schweitzer Lounge (which is on the lower level; greeters and others will be able to help you find it if you need help).

Conversations on Saying Goodbye

Wednesday April 26, 7pm, Schweitzer Lounge

It has been said that any loss brings up in our unconscious all the other losses we've suffered. Rev. Matt will explore loss, grief, and saying goodbye, especially relating to his departure.

Led by Rev. Matt Alspaugh.



Belonging to UUYO

Sunday, April 30, at 12:30 in Schweitzer Lounge

If you are considering joining the church or even if you are not but are looking for more ways to deepen your involvement and understanding of Unitarian Universalism, you'll want to attend.

The Reverend Matt Alspaugh and Newcomer Involvement Coordinator, Karen Lapidus will co-lead a program about what we believe, what we do and where we are going. The program is designed to be informative, inspiring and fun.

Join us for a few hours! A snack will be served and childcare will be provided by request. All recent newcomers and visitors will receive a more detailed invitation via email soon. (Or contact Rev. Matt, at minister@uuyo.org for more information.)



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 2: April 2

- *Anita Wesler - Communicator*
- *Marcia & Ralph Malmer – Facilitators*
- Alicia & Scott Baker
- Millie Brewer
- Kate Fitzgerald
- Margaret Haushalter
- Luanna Jacobs
- Cathy Kajut
- Gerard Kelly
- Kadey Kimpel
- Alison & Jon Locketti
- Sarah Lown
- Linda Scharf
- Judith Stanger
- Trudee Weatherby

Team 3: April 9, 16, 23, and 30

- *Linda Mohn – Communicator*
- *Susie Biersdorfer – Facilitator*
- *Diana Shaheen – Facilitator*
- Jessie Anderson
- Audra & Jason Carlson
- Karen Lapidus
- Sarah Lowry
- Dianna Mason
- Marcellene Hawk Mayhall
- Susan Miracle
- Diana Palardy
- Wendy & Andy Pfrenger
- Gene Pusateri
- Davin Stilson
- Mary June Tartan

Spring Cleaning for the UUYO Collectable Sale

UUYO's Collectable Sale is set for Friday, May 19, and Saturday, May 20, at the Church. Open to the public and will include collectables, art, jewelry, tools in working order, and antiques, along with CD's, DVD's, audio books,

collectable comic books, children's publications, and rare/valuable collectable books. This is not a general rummage sale. 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 will be receiving items for the sale a few days prior to the event, so please save donations at your home until the week of the sale.

Care Team Help and Pastoral Care

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 more information or assistance, please contact Jeanne Tucker at 330-652-0308.

Pastoral Care

If you have a pastoral care need, or know of someone in our congregation who might have a need, please contact Rev. Matt Alspaugh (minister@uuyo.org) or the church office (office@uuyo.org, 330-746-3067)



Share the Plate

In April, half of our loose plate offerings will go to the YWCA's Barbara Wick Transitional House. This program provides housing for homeless single women and families for up to one year. Residents are provided with emergency items such as food and bus fare. They are provided assistance locating child care, permanent housing, and health services. They receive case management services including information on referrals to legal, substance abuse, mental health services, vocational training, and

support groups. Household management, relationship, and parenting skills training is also available through this program.

Events of Note Outside UUYO

The following events may be of interest to UUYO folk -- they parallel our mission and usually have UUYO folk involved in planning or organizing them.

Jewish Community Center - Logan Campus Cleanup

Sunday, April 2, 9am - 2pm

The JCC has acquired the Logan Swim Club facility and is improving it. Come help prep, paint, and beautify the space. Volunteers will receive a free day pass to the facility. Contact Sarah

Wilschek, SarahWilschek@JewishYoungstown.org

Iyad Burnat, Palestinian Human Rights Activist

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Speech and book signing by Iyad Burnat at the Arab American Community Center of Greater Youngstown, 15 Belgrade Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44505

Contact Ray Nakley 330-746-1797

Food Policy Advocate to Speak Wednesday April 5, at St. John's Church

Food Policy Advocate to Speak Lit Youngstown & St. John's Episcopal Church will host food policy advocate Mark Winne at St. John's, 323 Wick Ave., on Wed. April 5. A free luncheon-workshop at noon on bringing grocery stores to local neighborhoods requires reservations (LitYoungstown@gmail.com, deadline March 27). A free talk at 7:00 will be moderated by Tim Francisco.

Winne is a Beacon Press author, and an acclaimed speaker offering decades of experience on a critical issue

to us in the Valley. Learn more about him here:

<https://www.uua.org/directory/people/mark-winne>

ACTION Community Fundraiser and Banquet

Thursday, April 20, 5-8pm

ACTION will hold its Fifteenth Annual Community Fundraiser and Banquet on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Social Hall, 243 Via Mount Carmel Drive in Youngstown. A social hour is planned from 5-6pm while the dinner and program will take place from 6-8pm. The guest speaker is Senator Joseph Schiavoni, representative of Ohio's District 33. Tickets cost \$35 per person and can be obtained by calling the ACTION office at 330-941-0475.

Mahoning Valley March for Science Saturday, April 22, 11am - 1 pm

UUYO is proud to serve as the headquarters for the Mahoning Valley March for Science in conjunction with the national March for Science event happening in Washington

D.C. Marchers of all ages are invited to gather at UUYO beginning at 10:30 to march around Wick Park. Speakers and hands-on science activities will be available following the march. For more information, or to see how you can help, please contact Audra Carlson (audracarlson3707@gmail.com or [330-984-1709](tel:330-984-1709)).

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

Sarah Lowry, Secretary

Louisa Berger, Treasurer

Tom Beck

Sarah Lowry

Ralph Malmer

Linda Mohn

Molly Toth

Anita Wesler

Committee Chairpersons

Martin Berger, Building and Grounds

Jeanne Tucker, Caring

Lowell Satre, Endowment

Ralph Malmer, Green Sanctuary

Linda Mohn, Hospitality

Diane Barnes, Nominating

Jan Grigsby, Welcoming Congregation

Eugenia Pierce, Women's Alliance

Christine Gulgas, 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](#)

Office Hours

Tuesday and Friday, 9am-3:30pm

Sunday, 9-11am and 12:30-4:30pm