



The Steel Chalice

February, 2017

Welcome to UUYO's Emailed
Newsletter

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February Worship Theme: "Identity"

Sunday, February 5: "Nurturing our
UU Identities for Such Times as
These"

What does being a Unitarian Universalist, or a supporter of this faith mean to you? Additionally, what might it mean for us to explore our "Unitarian Universalist Identities", especially in the times we find ourselves in? As the theme for the month of February is "Identity" in many Unitarian

Universalist Congregations around the country, let's explore, together, what it may mean to personally, and collectively to define and nurture our "Unitarian Universalist Identities".

Bio: Rev. Chris Long returned to the Cleveland area in June of last year after being away for 11 years. Over the last 11 years, he graduated Starr King School for the Ministry (Berkeley, CA – May 2009), was Ordained at Unitarian Universalist Minister by the First Unitarian Church of Oakland (Oakland, CA – June 2009) and spent the last 7 years in Madison, WI where he worked at the University of Wisconsin – Madison as an Assistant Associate Program Specialist. In his role there he co-lead 9 month long, dialogical social justice learning communities. He is humbled to be leading worship with you and looking forward to meeting some of you soon!!!

Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Long

Worship Associate: Sarah Lown

Musician: Marcellene Hawk

Chalice Lighter: Gina DeAngelo

Sunday, February 12: "What is True, Anyway?"

The fourth of a multi-part series on putting our Principles in Practice. We will focus on the prophetic call embedded in our Principles.

We live in a world filled with fake news, spin, gaslighting, and lies at the highest levels. But truthseeking and truth-telling is an important spiritual virtue. We consider our fourth principle's "free and responsible search for truth and meaning," as we attempt to discern truth from untruth.

Worship Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Davita Fitzgerald

Musician: Jon Lockett

Chalice Lighter: Sarah Lown

Wonderbox: BeckyAnn

Sunday, February 19: "Re-Imagining a Democratic Society"

The fifth of a multi-part series on putting our Principles in Practice. We will focus on the prophetic call embedded in our Principles.

During my visit to Mexico, several contacts grasped that we do not truly have a democracy in the USA, even if they didn't fully understand the electoral college. We'll consider issues like this as we consider our fifth principal's "right of conscience and the use of the democratic process"

Worship Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Gina Vance

Musician: Jeff Crause

Wonderbox: BeckyAnn Harker

Sunday, February 27: "Is It Silly to Trust Strangers?"

There is a lot of anxiety in our world right now. Children who were born to undocumented immigrants in the United States feel anxiety as they apply to college. Some traditional Christians in our country feel persecuted because of their beliefs. On the international stage, many people are uneasy about the changing demographics of their countries. It seems silly to trust anyone who is not in our "tribe." Or is it?

Worship Leader: Davita Fitzgerald

Worship Associate: Ben Barnes

Musician: Ginger Ackley

Wonderbox: BeckyAnn Harker



The new Board had its retreat at UUYO on 1/21/2017. While we missed the presence of Ralph Malmer in Florida and Sarah Lowry and Linda Mohn at women's marches in DC and Pittsburgh, we had a very productive meeting that consisted of Matt Alspaugh, Anita Wesler, Molly Toth, Louisa Berger, Tom Beck, and myself, Andy Crabb. We spent part of the time getting to know each other and then reviewed our goals and budget for 2017.

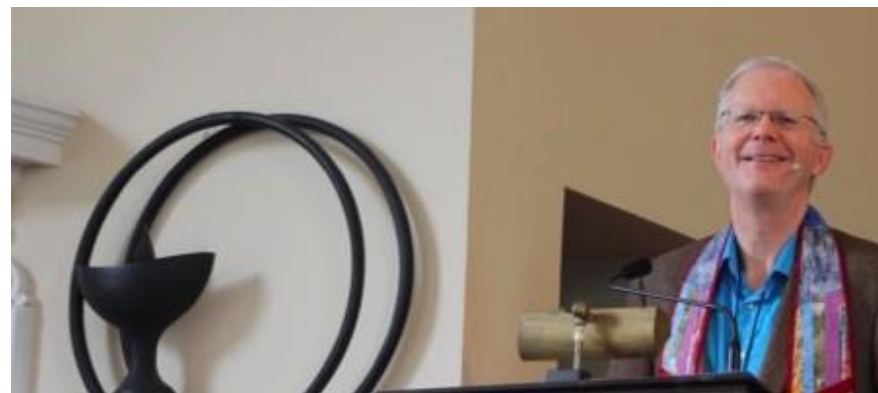
We noted that our members have helped up a long way toward our stewardship goal for the year, but that we still have a gap between our planned income and planned expenses. A big goal for the year is to have Matt at full time instead of part time for the year and we feel that is realistic as we reported at the congregational meeting. We will need to increase our pledge and giving income for the year, so if you are willing and able to make a new pledge or increase your pledge for 2017, it will be a tremendous help in keeping things moving forward for the year. There will be opportunities to work on income through Fun!raising activities too, so there are many ways to contribute to the vigor of UUYO throughout the year.

With 2017 being the 125th anniversary of UUYO's origin, we are working on plans that include exciting events and capital improvements at UUYO that include replacing the steeple with a cupola or smaller steeple, revamping the outdoor courtyard, and doing various repair and cleanup tasks around the building to make it clear to the community that we are a vibrant and present group of folks that welcomes people interested in our outlook and approach to life and living.

Look for opportunities to join in the action as we welcome broad participation from all who are interested.

Thanks!

Andy



Matt's Musings

This month, for vacation, Liz and I are studying Spanish in an immersion program in Mérida, in the Yucatán, Mexico. I have long wanted to master another language, in part to see if I could; Liz likes to know something of the local language where we travel. This week I am reminded of more fundamental reasons to learn another language: In a time when forces of fear and hate are working to build walls between cultures, learning a language is one small

step toward tearing down walls of division. Further, in my struggles to learn Spanish, which is considered an easy language to learn, I think of refugees who come to the USA. Most struggle to learn English, considered one of the harder languages to learn -- and they often are doing this in less than ideal settings, with volunteer teachers in their spare time after work. I am humbled by the enormity of the task of learning English, just one among all the challenges these immigrants face.

In my Spanish immersion class, a common question asks what we do for a living. I explain that I am a 'pastor' (I learn that the word for minister, 'ministro', means a government official), and of course the next question is -- 'for what church'. After some effort, we determine that the Spanish name for the UU faith would be Universalista Unitario. But what's that? With help, I explain that we are a 'libro' or free faith, and we include Christianos, certainly, but also Budistas, and Paganos, and Humanistas and Agnosticos and Atheos. With that last word - atheists - I observe raised eyebrows 'really?'. Now I note that our story is a good bit more complex than this, with our passion for social justice, and our varied historical roots, that for example, our longest running churches are in Transylvania (that also gets an eyebrow raise).

How do we explain our faith to others? Especially when communicating is a challenge for whatever reason. Maybe the time is short (hence 'elevator speech' -- an explanation you could give on an elevator ride). Maybe language is a barrier, as it was with me this week. What would you say? What are the few essential things that make you passionate about Unitarian Universalism? These are good questions to ponder, to have answers handy, for there are many who are looking for what we have to offer. But they will not learn about us unless we are able to tell them. I encourage you to be ready to talk about our faith with your friends and others around you who might find our church a place of sanctuary and strength in the world as it is today. We've got something valuable here, let's share.

See you in church!

Matt



Reflections

So much going on!!! All good!!!

If you weren't there for the Annual Meeting, then you may not know that as of that day, we started a new High School RE class! We have a critical mass for making a classroom work, and so we are. A huge thank-you to Gina Vance and Samantha Fitschen, who have agreed to lead that class. They are doing the same curriculum that the Middle School group is doing, which is a free curriculum from the Tapestry of Faith curricula put out by the UUA. It is called Be the Change!, and it is a curriculum that address race and racism. I am so happy to be able to offer this additional class!

At the Annual Meeting, I also referred to my not-yet-worked-out plan for our Social Action Sunday. It is now worked out. This was supposed to have taken place the 5th Sunday in January, but because of scheduling issues, we switched our February Children's Chapel, which was supposed to be the first Sunday in February, to the last Sunday in January, so we could do our Social Action on February 5. On this day, we will have a panel of speakers, consisting of adults and youth, who will come from the Islamic Society of Greater Youngstown. They will speak to us about their religion, but also about what it is like to be a Muslim in Youngstown, Ohio. There are many stories out there about hate crimes against Muslims, and we would like to know if that is true here. Making connections and making friends is the first step in combatting hatred, and if nothing else, we will have made connections and made friends! I am very grateful to that community for agreeing to come speak to us.

We have also had a request to resurrect the Parenting Group, which is a group that we had several years ago, where we would have a potluck dinner and talk- sometimes on subjects, sometimes not. Our own youth had provided the childcare that evening. We will have a planning meeting of sorts on Friday, February 24 at 6:00, which will essentially be a Parenting Group meeting! Please let me know if you

are interested in attending so we can plan space accordingly.

Not bad for a fairly short month!

BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education

Coffee with the Minister

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 Tuesdays in February (February 7, 14, 21, and 28), 11am-1pm. Drop on by, have a cup of coffee or a snack, and chat!

Rev. Matt

Equal Exchange

The opportunity to buy excellent food and beverage products that are fairly traded should be a "no brainer" for us. Our congregation's participation in the Interfaith Program of the Equal Exchange worker-owned co-operative is a long and steady one. We started buying fair

trade coffee in 2003. That's almost 14 years of support to small farmers around the world!

UUYO started using Equal Exchange products in our church kitchen and selling a few coffees and teas to members. We are now pleased to be one of more than 650 UU congregations and organizations supporting small farmer co-operatives by handling fairly traded products through Equal Exchange. Over time, we expanded the inventory to stock additional Equal Exchange coffees, teas, cocoas, snack items, and the ever-favorite chocolate bars.

With the proceeds of this project we stock the coffee, tea, sugar, and paper cups in our church kitchen. Every time you enjoy a warm beverage during Sunday morning's Coffee Hour, or at a UUYO event, remember that you can support that "cuppa" by your purchase of those products for your use at home. Equal Exchange also contributes a portion of our sales to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. In 2015 that amounted nationwide to more than \$12,000 toward the UUSC work for social justice. We donate the remainder of our proceeds to the church operating budget as an ongoing fund-raiser.

Come and see us at the Coffee Cart on Sunday mornings. Try new coffee or cocoa, help the church, and most of all, join in the partnership to support small-scale farmers.

February Events

2/1/17 Ulysses Book Group 7pm at Melissa Smith's
2/3/17 Meditation for All (YR) 6:30pm
2/5/17 "Local Lunch" Coffee Hour (CH) 12:15pm
2/5/17 Guest Speakers from the Islamic Society 12:30pm
2/7/17 Coffee with the Minister 11am-1pm at Cultivate Cafe
2/7/17 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
2/7/17 Board Meeting (BR) 6:00pm
2/7/17 AA (CH) 7:30pm
2/9/17 Choir Meeting (SA) 6:30pm
2/11/17 Women's Alliance 12:30pm
2/12/17 Adult Forum (CH) 9:00am
2/12/17 Newcomer Involvement Team (SL) 12:15pm
2/14/17 Coffee with the Minister 11am-1pm at Cultivate Cafe
2/14/17 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
2/14/17 Writing as Spiritual Practice (BR) 7pm
2/14/17 AA (CH) 7:30pm
2/16/17 Book Club 7:15pm

2/17/17 Meditation for All (YR) 6:30pm
2/17/17 Where Science and Spirituality Meet (SL) 7pm
2/18/17 LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation with Full Spectrum (CH) 1pm
2/19/17 Newcomers' Circle (SL) 12:15pm
2/19/17 Worship Associates Meeting
2/21/17 Coffee with the Minister 11am-1pm at Cultivate Cafe
2/21/17 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
2/21/17 AA (CH) 7:30pm
2/24/17 Parenting Group Meeting (YR) 6pm
2/28/17 Coffee with the Minister 11am-1pm at Cultivate Cafe
2/28/17 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
2/28/17 AA (CH) 7:30pm

Ulysses by James Joyce Wednesday, February 1, 7:00 PM

Welcome to the 2017 reading/discussion of Joyce's masterpiece, which seems to be on several people's "bucket list." We will meet in a different week as our regular reading group!

We will meet on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m., at the north side home of Melissa Smith. Call her at 330-744-4640 if you need directions. Our tentative schedule of 7:00 Wednesday meetings is as follows: Feb. 1, Mar. 29, May 31, July 26, Sept. 27, and Nov. 29. We can adjust dates as necessary during the coming year.

There are many books, websites, charts, and commentary available for assistance in approaching, understanding, and enjoying *Ulysses*. Yes, some people DO enjoy reading this work! Whether you participate in the group discussion or not, I can e-mail you two short charts, a list of chapters, and some helpful suggestions (total of 7 pp); contact me at lesatre@gmail.com.

If you'd like to join us, the assignment for Feb. 1 is the first three "chapters," through about page 50. Consult the *Ulysses* schemata to enter chapter titles in your copy of the book. Please feel free to join us in this adventure. Let me know if you plan to come, just so we have some advance notice for Feb. 1.

Ellen Satre

Meditation for All Friday, February 3rd and 17th, 6:30pm

This group will meet in the Youth Group Room on Fridays (the first and third Fridays of every month) from 6:30 to 7:30pm until March 25.

We will practice basic meditation techniques and explore skills that you can apply to your daily life. Led by trained meditation instructor Linda Scharf, we also will refer to the book "Turning the Mind into an Ally" by Sakyong Mipham (available on Amazon) as a discussion guide. Great for beginners and experienced meditation practitioners alike!

No cost, but please RSVP to Samantha Fitschen at sfits7@gmail.com so we may contact you if there are schedule changes.

"Local Lunch" Coffee Hour Sunday, February 5th, 12:15pm

Hospitality Team 4 will offer a light lunch of locally-sourced

food after the service. Come and enjoy a tasty lunch while you have conversation, and learn about the food grown, prepared, and available here in our area. There is no charge for the lunch, but we will accept donations to defray costs.

Guest Speakers

Sunday, February 5th, 12:30pm

If you have been reading our Weekly Bulletins and Newsletters, or even last week's Order of Service, you will know that the RE program is expecting some visitors this Sunday from the Islamic Center of Greater Youngstown. This was our Social Action project for January, which was postponed to this Sunday, February 5.

There has been much anticipation for this event, with several adults saying they would also like to join us. So as not to interfere with this Sunday's service, our guests were willing to come after the service, and will give their presentation to anyone who would like to attend. We will meet in Channing Hall at 12:30. All are welcome.

They will talk about Islam, giving us the basics of their religion. They will also answer questions. This is a time for us to learn, and also a time to develop new relationships! I am so grateful for their willingness to come and talk to us, and I am very much looking forward to this event!

Childcare will be available for children 5 and under.

I hope to see you on Sunday!

BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education

UUYO Choir Forming

Thursday, February 9th, 6:30-7:30pm

Thursday, February 9th from 6:30 to 7:30pm, will be the UUYO Choir initial meeting for ages 16 and up for those interested in forming a choir. We are also in need of a choir director, guitarist and/or pianist. The goal of our choir is to sing for occasional services and special events. The goal of our meeting on the 9th is to discuss scheduling, get to know what our abilities are as a group - and sing a bit! Please RSVP and let us know if you are interested in

singing, playing an instrument, or leading our rehearsals as a director or accompanist. The meetings are free, but donations towards a future choir director are welcome. Choir coordinator Samantha Fitschen can be reached at sfits7@gmail.com or [301.538.9252](tel:301.538.9252).

Women's Alliance Meeting

Saturday, February 11, 12:30pm

Women's Alliance will meet at the Amen Corner, 20 W. Main St. SE, Girard Ohio, 44420 at 12:30 P.M. If possible, please call in advance so we can get adequate seating. Call Eugenia at [330-953-3086](tel:330-953-3086), or [330-503-4039](tel:330-503-4039).

Writing as Spiritual Practice

Tuesday February 14, 7-8:30pm, Board Room

We'll reflect on the February worship theme, "Identity." 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).

Forum Workshops and Discussions

Sunday, February 12, 9:30-10:45am in Channing Hall

Topic: Immigrants and Refugees

What are the issues? How do our Unitarian Universalist principles apply? Come join in a discussion on this timely topic.

The discussion is open to everyone and will be led by Lowell Satre.

Book Club

Wednesday, February 16, 7:15pm

The next meeting of the Book Group will take place at 7:15 pm on Wednesday, February 16, 2017 at the home of Melissa Smith. We will discuss Rogan's *The Fall of the*

Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East “in which the award-winning author brings the First World War and its immediate aftermath in the Middle East to vivid life, uncovering the often ignored story of the region's crucial role in the conflict. Bolstered by German money, arms, and military advisors, the Ottomans took on the Russian, British, and French forces, and tried to provoke Jihad against the Allies in their Muslim colonies.... A sweeping narrative of battles and political intrigue from Gallipoli to Arabia, *The Fall of the Ottomans* is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the Great War and the making of the modern Middle East.”

The title for March is Jack London's” first explicitly political novel, *The Iron Heel*, was published in 1908. The work, set in the future and covering in detail the years 1912 to 1932, envisions a defeated working class uprising and the rise of an oligarchic dictatorship in the US, followed centuries later by a social revolution.”

Where Science and Spirituality Meet (SL)

Friday, February 17, 7pm

Our group will watch and discuss consciousness studies DVDs every third Friday of the month. Contact Clare Puskarczyk at 330-746-8004 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 4: February 5

- *Jan Elias – Communicator; Ben Barnes – Facilitator*
- Louisa & Martin Berger
- Heather Best
- 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: February 12, 19, and 26

- *Liz Hill – Communicator; Jan Grigsby - Facilitator*
- Ginny & Frank Bishop
- Beth Foster
- John & Christine Gulgas
- Monica Hite
- Michaella Moore

- Marty O'Leary
- Kerry Planty
- Jim Rogers
- Peg Tomm
- Molly Toth

LGBT+ Committee: New Name ... Same Mission

UUYO has had a Welcoming Committee since our congregation became a Welcoming Congregation several years ago. A UU Welcoming Congregation means that our Church membership completed a program to learn how to be welcoming and supportive of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning people. Our UUYO Welcoming Committee now has a new name -- The LGBT+ Committee. Our mission remains the same: to help our congregation be welcoming to LGBT people and to assist our Church membership to better understand issues associated with LGBT lives. Anybody can join the LGBT+ Committee and straight allies are especially welcome. Look for future announcements about LGBT+ Committee events and activities. Contact Jan Grigsby to

be on the LGBT+ Committee email list
at: jgrigsby6@verizon.net.

Share the Plate

We will share our offering plate in February with The Youngstown English Center, a non-profit organization housed in the Rodef Sholom building next door to UUYO on Elm Street. They teach English to ESOL students and help their students become familiar with both the language and culture of their new environment. Knowing English also helps students' job prospects. The English Center also helps immigrants become U.S. citizens. In 2013 the center served 102 adult clients.

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)

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

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](#)

Office Hours

Tuesday and Friday, 9am-3:30pm

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

