



The Steel Chalice

March, 2017

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March Worship Theme: "Risk"

What Does It Mean To Be A Community of Risk?

The important question about risk (and about life) is not “Are you willing to jump off?” but “Are you willing to jump in?” Not “Are you willing to put yourself in danger?” but “Are you willing to give yourself to something bigger?” Not “Will you be daring?” but “Will you stay true?” As the poet David

Whyte puts it: “We are here essentially to risk ourselves in the world. We are meant to hazard ourselves for the right thing, for the right woman or the right man, for a son or a daughter, for the right work or for a gift given against all the odds.”

Sunday, March 5: "Types of Risk"

Sometimes, you must put yourself in danger in order to give yourself to something bigger. What are we willing to risk in order to live our values?

Worship Leader: Gina DeAngelo

Worship Associate: Christine Gulgas

Musician: Nanette Kaplan-Solomon

Singers: UUYO Singing Group

Chalice Lighter: Dianna Mason

Wonderbox: BeckyAnn Harker

Sunday, March 12: "One World, Divided?"

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

Our world seems to be coming apart, divided with walls, barriers, and isolationism. Yet not so many years ago, many of us dreamed of one world community with open borders, free trade, and even global peace under a true united nations, a world government. What happened? Are these dreams still possible? Do they make sense?

We consider these questions through the lens of our sixth principle, with its "goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all."

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Monica Hite

Musicians: Marcellene Hawk, Tom and Sarah Smotzer

Wonderbox: BeckyAnn Harker

Sunday, March 19: "The Starfish and the Spider"

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

Not long ago, I encountered the book "The Starfish and the Spider", which explored the concept of leaderless organizations. I wonder if there is a larger principle in play, that of organizations, systems, even universes without centers as we know them. Could our concept of "the interdependent web" mentioned in our seventh principle, be alluding to such networks? How might such a concept guide our everyday lives?

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Sarah Lown

Musician: Marcellene Hawk-Mayhall

Chalice Lighter: John Gulgas

Wonderbox: BeckyAnn Harker

Sunday, March 26: "Risk, Change, and Risking Change?"

We oftentimes think of risk as something that can be good, that can be managed to maximize reward. Change involves risk, and life involves change. But sometimes we're forced into risky situations with little potential benefit, only danger of loss. How do we balance risk and reward? How do we deal with risk where we have no control?

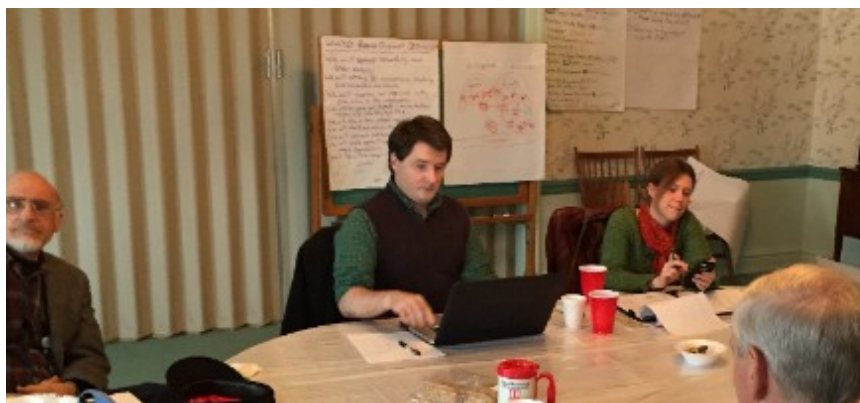
Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Jan Elias

Musician: Jeff Crouse

Chalice Lighter: Josh Yohman

Wonderbox: BeckyAnn Harker



Bits from the Board

2017 promises to be a year of growth and progress for UUYO. Beginning at our mid-January Board retreat and continuing at our February Board meeting, we undertook some visioning exercises that encouraged us to think ahead to December and ask ourselves: What would a successful year look like? What projects would be underway? What initiatives would we be supporting in our community at UUYO and beyond?

What these discussions generated are some guideposts that will help us as we move through the year. We will be focusing on getting capital improvement projects underway, and nurturing those projects that are already in the works. We'll, of course, be monitoring the nuts and bolts, and dollars and cents of the organization, making sure that a Finance Committee is in place to ensure a successful stewardship campaign and great fundraisers throughout the year.

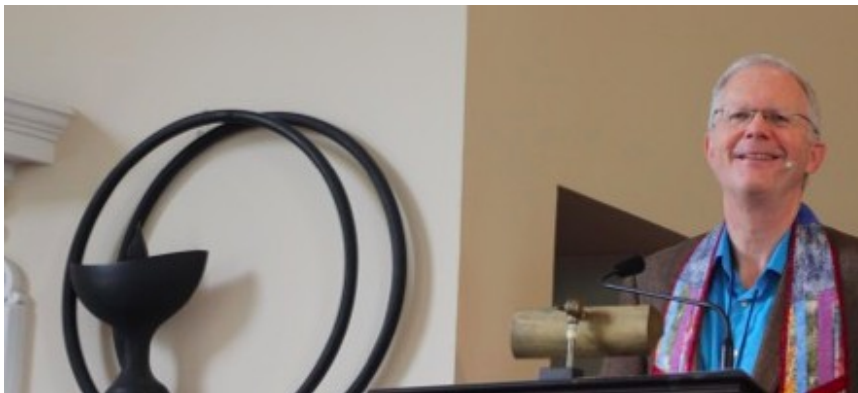
In recent months we have seen a huge uptick in the number of people in the pews on Sundays--it seems clear that in uncertain times, people are turning to us to bring hope, light, education, and perspective. Events like the panel discussion featuring guests from Youngstown's Muslim community are helping UUYO to distinguish itself as a welcoming space for progressive, thoughtful conversation and action. One major priority is managing this growth well by creating an environment that allows people in our church community to take on their own projects and pursue their passions with our support.

We are very much looking forward to celebrating 125 years

of service to the Mahoning Valley this year, and will be working with the congregation to plan events and services to mark the occasion. A planning meeting will be held March 5 at 12:30; all are welcome to attend to share their ideas for how we can best honor our distinctive heritage and proud history.

Molly Toth

Board of Trustees Member



Matts Musings

I see amazing energy and excitement bubbling up everywhere I look at UUYO. Our worship attendance is high, and RE attendance is up. Groups like Explorations have more people participating and feel more energetic.

New things seem to be happening organically: a singing group is experimenting with leading songs on Sunday morning, and our parenting group for RE families is re-starting. The panel discussion we organized with the Islamic center was attended by about 100 interested people. A group that's working with other progressive groups for social change is in early stages of organizing. A couple of new volunteers are helping with social media like Facebook and Instagram. And I'm sure there are other things happening that I don't even know about – and that's good!

All these things suggest that we're getting a good sense of what Shared Ministry means. Some step up individually to help, others become part of our growing set of Ministry Teams. Organizational expert Margaret Wheatley compares human organization and change to what she sees in biological systems.

Wheatley says, "In nature, change never happens as a result of top-down, pre-conceived strategic plans, or from the mandate of any single individual or boss. Change begins as local actions spring up simultaneously in many different areas. If these changes remain disconnected, nothing happens beyond each locale. However, when they

become more connected, local actions can emerge as a powerful system with influence at a more global or comprehensive level.”

That’s what I see happening -- needs emerge, and people step up to help fill those needs. These people start to connect, and new Ministry Teams emerge from those connections. So in addition to our Worship Associates Team, Hospitality Teams, and RE Teaching Teams, we now have a Newcomer Involvement Team helping people new to the church connect, make friends, and explore more deeply. That team started with one person and has grown; my role has been mostly to allow and encourage and simply express gratitude.

I want to mention a few things in our larger UU community that you might want to explore (the links give you more information):

- A [Worship Arts Conference](#) will be held on Saturday, April 8, in Pittsburgh. This is led by Marcia McFee, who is an amazing teacher (I have studied with her). Several of us are attending; If you are interested in how we might make worship more compelling, join us.

- Our regional [Growth and Vitality Conference](#) is coming up, on Saturday, May 6 at the Akron UU Church. The event would be a great chance for you to connect with other UU leaders and learn about what helps congregations grow and thrive.
- [General Assembly](#) will be held in New Orleans on June 21-25. This is our annual UU gathering. This year we will be electing our next President, and one of the three candidates, Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, once served UUYO.
- [Summer Institute](#) is a week long family-friendly, multigenerational camp held at Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH on July 17-23. It’s an affordable family vacation, and the programming is impressive. If you want to immerse yourself in Unitarian Universalism with others from around Ohio and beyond, this is the place.

I hope you will consider attending one of these events, or better yet, connect with UU friends to attend together. These events can be transformative, and when you come back, you might transform us.

See you in church, -- Matt



*RE*lections

After the flurry of activities that happened in February, March is looking to be a little more calm in the RE department. Perhaps February was the Lion, and March is the Lamb!

Our event with guest visitors from the Islamic Society of Greater Youngstown was a huge success. The event grew from being a little Social Action talk for the kids of RE, to a church-wide, and actually city-wide event which was covered by two TV news channels, the Vindicator, and even the Jambar of YSU! I am grateful to our guests, who accommodated the changes and who graciously acted as ambassadors of their faith to the outside world. They

extended an open invitation to come and visit any time if anyone wants to learn more. We will try to organize a group trip to the mosque in a couple of months. Be on the lookout for details!

In our Coming of Age program, we have welcomed two additional youth, who have participated in some of the earlier events this year. We are very grateful to Jan Grigsby and Wendy Pfrenger for agreeing to be mentors for these two youth. Welcome Aboard!

In February, we resurrected our Parenting Group, following a Small Group Ministry format, using our Soul Matters packet as a guide. Soul Matters is the program we are following church-wide, to structure our monthly themes for worship and for other Small Group Ministries (Explorations), Children's Chapel, Writing as a Spiritual Practice, etc. One thing I learned at my annual LREDA Retreat was how to be an "Intentional Church", and folding all matters of church into the same theme is one way to do it. We will meet again March 24.

Speaking of my retreat, LREDA is the Liberal Religious Educator's Association, and is a professional organization for religious educators- Directors and Ministers of Religious Education. For the last 6 years, in February, we have

gathered at a retreat center in Wheeling, WV for connecting, relaxing, rejuvenating, and learning new things to make our church, and our faith, better. I very much appreciate this group, and the support of UUYO to help me be a part of it.

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

Rev. Matt

Equal Exchange

Come and get your delicious chocolate bars before they

run out in the spring! We won't be ordering more chocolate until fall. Coffee, tea, and cocoa products are always available. Remember, your purchases support our congregation, the social justice work of UUSC, and small farmer co-ops. See the Equal Exchange coffee cart in Channing Hall during Coffee Hour.

March Events

3/2/17 UUYO Choir Meeting (SA) 7-8pm

3/3/17 Meditation for All (YR) 6:30pm

3/7/17 Coffee with the Minister 11am-1pm at Cultivate Cafe

3/7/17 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm

3/7/17 Board Meeting (BR) 6:00pm

3/7/17 AA (CH) 7:30pm

3/9/17 Choir Meeting (SA) 7-8pm

3/11/17 Valley Voices in Action Meeting (CH) 9:30am-1pm

3/11/17 Women's Alliance Meeting at UUYO, 12:30pm

3/12/17 Annual Chili Cook-Off (SA) 12:15pm

3/12/17 Steeple Replacement Meeting (CH) 12:30pm

3/14/17 Coffee with the Minister 11am-1pm at Cultivate Cafe

3/14/17 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
3/14/17 AA (CH) 7:30pm
3/14/17 Writing as Spiritual Practice (BR) 7-8:30pm
3/15/17 Spiritual Explorations (SL) 7pm
3/15/17 Book Club 7:15pm
3/16/17 Planned Parenthood Advocacy (CH) 5:30pm
3/16/17 Choir Meeting (SA) 7-8pm
3/17/17 Meditation for All (YR) 6:30pm
3/17/17 Where Science and Spirituality Meet (SL) 7pm
3/19/17 Adult Forum: Sanctuary (CH) 9:30am
3/19/17 Worship Associates Meeting (YR) 12:15pm
3/21/17 Coffee with the Minister 11am-1pm at Cultivate
Cafe
3/21/17 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
3/21/17 AA (CH) 7:30pm
3/23/17 Choir Meeting (SA) 7-8pm
3/26/17 Adult Forum: Books for Spring (CH) 9:30am
3/26/17 Newcomers' Circle (SL) 12:15pm
3/26/17 Steeple Replacement Meeting (CH) 12:30pm
3/28/17 Coffee with the Minister 11am-1pm at Cultivate
Cafe
3/28/17 Stretch & Creative Movement (CH) 5:30pm
3/28/17 AA (CH) 7:30pm
3/29/17 Ulysses Reading Group 7pm at Melissa Smith's

3/30/17 Choir Meeting (SA) 7-8pm

Meditation for All

Friday, March 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.

UUYO Choir Meetings

Thursday, March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th from 7-8pm

The UUYO Choir will meet in the Sanctuary each Thursday in March from 7-8pm. The choir sings for occasional services and special events at UUYO. If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument, please join us. 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, March 11 at 12:30pm

The next Women's Alliance meeting will be held at the church at 12:30pm on March 11. We will be eating at UUYO, so bring your own lunches. We will be getting everything ready for the Chili Cook-off the next day, the 12th. Any questions, call Eugenia: [\(330\) 953-3086](tel:330.953.3086) or [\(330\) 503-4039](tel:330.503.4039).

Annual Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, March 12, 12:15pm

The annual chili-cook off is at hand. Enthusiasm is starting to build, so start practicing your entries now. Categories are Traditional, Hottest, Most Unusual, Vegetarian/Vegan and Best in Show. Women's Alliance will provide butter, shredded cheese, sliced green onions and chopped regular onions, sour cream and crackers; to fill out the meal, we ask members of the congregation to provide Salads, Relishes, Vegetables, Breads/Rolls, etc., and any Desserts/Sweets. A sign up sheet is on the Fair Exchange table in Channing Hall. This way one can glance at the sheet and see what is needed to provide a balance to the meal. Also, we will need help in breaking down and clean up after the event. Any help would be appreciated. For questions call Eugenia at [\(330\) 953-3086](tel:330.953.3086) or [\(330\) 503-4039](tel:330.503.4039).

Mark Your Calendar! UUYO Folks Are Gathering To Discuss Pointed Issue!

Sunday, March 12th and 26th, 12:30pm

Folks have been gathering at UUYO to discuss options for replacing the steeple that has now been removed for several years. As a group, we've narrowed down to 3 options:

1. Leave the stump. Maybe put some sort of decorative railing up and improve the current temporary cap so it is permanent.
2. Install a pre-fabricated cupola top
3. Install a pre-fabricated steeple top

We are calling two meetings of the congregation in March to first decide which of the above 3 options to pursue, and then at the second meeting, make a decision on the details of the option selected at the first meeting. So, for example, if we decide at the first meeting to put up a cupola, at the second meeting we would evaluate two different size options and make a decision, same if we choose a steeple.

We will have some sample images to give people an idea of what we are working with and will also discuss funding the work. Ideally, we want to have the project implemented long before our 125th anniversary in September so we can have this under our belts and be moving on to other celebration related activities as the date approaches.

- Meeting 1 – 12:30 after service on 3/12/2017, informal discussion to decide which of the 3 options to work with
- Meeting 2 – 12:30 after service on 3/26/2017, formal congregational vote to select size of selected option

We'll have folks from the committee talk about their hopes for the replacement project, especially what it will mean to how we are perceived by ourselves and by our community.

Writing as Spiritual Practice Tuesday March 14, 7-8:30pm, Board Room

We'll reflect on the worship theme, "risk."

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).

Spiritual Explorations

Wednesday March 15, 7-9pm, Schweitzer Lounge

We'll be exploring the risks we take in our lives -- risks we take by acting, and risks we take by not acting. When are we being courageous, and when are we just thrill-seeking?

Led by Rev. Matt Alspaugh.

Book Club

Wednesday, March 15, 7:15pm

The next meeting of the Book Group will take place at 7:15 pm on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at the home of Melissa Smith. We will discuss Jack London's *The Iron Heel*, which 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."



In May we will read Kenneth Grahame's classic children's book *The Wind in the Willows*. Grahame's book is a classic of English children's literature that describes the adventures and misadventures of Toad, Mole, Badger, and Rat.

The May selection is *The Education of Henry Adams*, "an autobiographical record of Adams's introspection rather than his accomplishments. Adams had long since come to the conclusion that his traditional education had failed to help him come to terms with the changing world — changes that included the discovery of X-rays and radio waves and radioactivity, a world war, and the invention of the automobile — and that was the thrust of his memoir."

Led by Louisa Berger.

Where Science and Spirituality Meet (SL)

Friday, March 17, 7pm

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

Friday, March 17 - Jeffery Mishlove PhD - Consciousness and the Paranormal

Unitarian Universalist Church (UUYO), 1105 Elm St.,
Youngstown, OH 44505. Schweitzer Lounge

Side door entrance, then downstairs, right past the kitchen, left door when you reach the hallway. Front door/driveway for wheel chair access -- please call me to arrange elevator accessibility.

Join us! Watch DVDs presenting consciousness studies-related information and the integration of Spirit and Science, including Rupert Sheldrake's morphic resonance,

Bruce Lipton's Biology of Belief, and Christian de Quincey's consciousness as philosophy, and new physics, especially the work of Nassim Hamein. Other concepts included are remote viewing, telepathy, alternative healing, sacred geometry, and much more.

Led by Clare Puskarczyk.

Forum Workshops and Discussions Sunday, March 19th and 26th, 9:30- 10:45am in Channing Hall

February 19th Topic: Sanctuary

In this time of intense concern about refugees and immigrants, what is sanctuary? How does the UUA foster support for targeted populations? What is a sanctuary congregation? How can UUYO respond to the needs of people?

February 26th Topic: Books for Spring

Bring reading suggestions to share with others, who might need them for inspiration, information, or insulation.

Both discussions are open to everyone and will be led by Lowell Satre.

Newcomers' Circle (SL)

Sunday, March 26, 12:15pm

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).

Ulysses Reading Group

Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 PM

Our reading group for James Joyce's classic, *Ulysses*, will

meet on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Melissa Smith for our second discussion. We finally meet the main character, Leopold Bloom, in our talk about the next 5 chapters, titled Calypso through Lestrygonians. The Ulysses Reading Group is led by Ellen Satre. Contact Ellen at lesatre@gmail.com for any questions or 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 1: March 5

- *Liz Hill – Communicator*
- *Jan Grigsby - Facilitator*
- Ginny & Frank Bishop
- Beth Foster
- John & Christine Gulgas
- Monica Hite
- Michaela Moore
- Marty O’Leary
- Kerry Planty
- Jim Rogers
- Peg Tomm
- Molly Toth

Team 2: March 12, 19, and 26

- *Anita Wesler - Communicator*
- *Ralph Malmer – Facilitator*
- *Marcia Malmer – Facilitator*
- Alicia & Scott Baker

- Millie Brewer
- Lynn Coleman
- Kate Fitzgerald
- Margaret Haushalter
- Cathy Kajut
- Gerard Kelly
- Kadey Kimpel
- Alison & Jon Locketti
- Sarah Lown
- Linda Scharf
- Trudee Weatherby

Share the Plate

In March, half of our loose plate offerings will go to UUYO's General Assembly Scholarship Fund which will help defray some of the costs for delegates who participate in GA in person or remotely.

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process.

General Assembly 2017 will meet in New Orleans, LA from June 21-25.

Newcomer Involvement Team Forms

It would be difficult not to notice how many visitors and newcomers are with us on Sunday mornings lately. What a joy that so many are finding their way to our community!

In order to have the capacity to fully welcome our newcomers and invite them into deeper involvement with the church, we have formed the Newcomers Involvement Team.

The Newcomer Involvement Team members are Tom Beck, Lukas Darling, Monica Hite, Kadey Kimpel, Karen Lapidus, Dianna Mason, Jim Rak, Jim Rogers, Hunter Thomas, Molly Toth, Gina Vance, and Trudee Weatherby.

Of course, all members and friends are encouraged to be a

welcoming presence to our visitors, but these team members will be responsible to assure that all are greeted in the sanctuary and welcomed in coffee hour.

Karen Lapidus

Newcomer Involvement Coordinator

Work Teams

We are attempting to resurrect the monthly work parties to enhance the appearance of UUYO. To start, we will meet the second Saturday of each month (third Saturday as a rain date) beginning April 8 at 10:00 AM. So don your work clothes, bring any tools you think might be useful, and come on down to the party. Any questions - - - call Bob Seibold at [724-981-4791](tel:724-981-4791). See you there.

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

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