



# The Steel Chalice

## June, 2017



### June Worship Theme: "Joy"

"Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy."

— Thich Nhat Hanh.

This month, we explore the nature of joy. When does joy show up for us? How can we invite joy into our lives, and into the lives of those around us?

### Sunday, June 4: "Things We Have Learned- RE and Coming of Age Sunday"

One of the benefits of teaching Religious Education classes, is you get to really learn about Unitarian Universalism and the values that we share. You learn *with* the kids, as well as *from* the kids. During this service, we will share what we have learned over the course of the year, and hopefully you will learn a thing or two as well! This RE Sunday is particularly special, as our high school youth have been on a year-long journey of self-discovery and reflection in their Coming of Age class. They will share with all of us their Credo, or Faith Statements. It's so easy for UUs to say what we *don't* believe. Get ready to hear what these amazing youth *do* believe. Hopefully it will encourage you to do your own reflecting and discovering!

**Worship Leader:** BeckyAnn Harker

**Worship Associates:** RE Teaching Team, Children, and Youth

**Musician:** Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

**Sunday, June 11: "Happiness Index"**

How happy are you? How happy are we together?

We'll explore the science of happiness and joy.

At the end of the service we will move downstairs, where our summer services will be held. Our annual picnic will follow.

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Matt Alspaugh

**Worship Associate:** Korey Gall

**Chalice Lighter:** Mindi Raley

**Musician:** Jeff Crouse

**Sunday, June 18: "Finding Joy in the Here and Now"**

"Happiness is not another place but *this* place. Not for another hour, but *this* hour." - *Walt Whitman*

How do we attend to the happiness that might be right before us in this place and this time? How do we experience joy in our interconnected world?

As part of our worship we will hold our annual Flower Communion -- **you are invited to bring a flower from the roadside, your garden, or your vase** to share (we will have extra flowers available).

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Matt Alspaugh

**Worship Associate:** Monica Hite

**Chalice Lighter:** Sarah Lown

**Musician:** Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

**Sunday, May 25: "Population and the Global Gag Rule"**

With Donald Trump's imposition of an odious Global Gag Rule, the needs and rights of women in the poorest places on earth are at great risk. Population challenges will worsen as family planning services and supplies cease to exist in critical areas. With the earth's population continuing to soar by an additional one billion people every dozen years, the impacts on people and the planet are enormous.

John Seager is the President of Population Connection. Population Connection (formerly Zero Population Growth) is the national grassroots organization that educates young people and advocates progressive action to stabilize world population at a level that can be sustained by Earth's resources.

**Worship Leader:** John Seager (Population Connection)

**Worship Associates:** Gina Vance

**Chalice Lighter:** Davita Fitzgerald



### **Bits from the Board**

Happy June! Summer is upon us, and I hope you are enjoying the beautiful warm weather.

Perhaps the biggest news we have to share is that the Board voted to call a contract minister at a special meeting on May 11. The Search Committee, consisting of Karen Lapidus, Dianna Mason, Jim Rogers, Gina Vance, and myself worked very hard in a tight time frame to interview several candidates. We were overjoyed by the number of ministers who were interested in our congregation, and their comments about us--that we seemed to be healthy, thriving, and rooted--are a testament to how much Rev. Matt, our leaders, and YOU have done to create this wonderful community.

We are excited to have Rev. Joseph Boyd joining us in early July. He is coming to us from All Souls Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he has been serving as interim minister. He has an M.Div from Union Theological Seminary in New York, and held a fellowship at the UU Church of Shaker Heights, as well as a chaplaincy internship at Rikers Prison. We are delighted to have him here with us, and the Board is looking forward to helping Joseph and his wife, Jennifer, settle into life in Youngstown.

In the middle of all of that, we were also planning our collectibles sale. We wish to thank everyone who gave of their time and energy to help make our collectibles sale a success. Thanks to you, we raised over \$1,600! Our next endeavor will be our auction in September. Keep an eye out for opportunities to help with planning! If you've worked on or attended the auction in previous years, you'll know it's a blast. The reality is that we have to raise funds to keep the lights on, pay our staff, and support programs, but that doesn't mean it has to be boring!

We have a lot to look forward to, a lot to celebrate, and a lot to do together. Summer tends to be a quiet time in many UU churches, but I don't think that'll be the case here. As always, feel free to reach out to any Board member if you want to chat about what we are up to or share your ideas. Thanks for all that you do to make UUYO what it is.

In faith, Molly

### **Letter from Rev. Joseph Boyd**

It is my great pleasure and honor to have the opportunity to serve you as your minister. Matt Alspaugh and I have had numerous conversations, and I am heartened by his ministry with you the last 8 years. He speaks of you with great love and affection, and has encouraged me to enjoy my time with you, as he certainly has.

I hope you have had a chance to get some kind of introduction of me from the board of directors. I don't believe you can tell much about a person through hearsay, but it's a start. I'm coming to you most recently from All Souls Church, Tulsa, OK as their intern minister. One of the members of the search committee told me to wear a cowboy hat when I arrive. It always makes me laugh the assumptions we make about people and places.

I come to Youngstown with a few assumptions about UUYO...just a few. I'm impressed by the level of participation you have of lay members in various church activities, including fundraising. It seems you

have built a culture where members understand shared ministry, and take ownership of the church as theirs. The church does not solely belong to me as your minister. It belongs to us. I'm glad this is understood. I'm excited to work with the worship associates who bring passion and talent into creating a worship service that has the power to transform us. Worship is a great love of mine, and I'm looking forward to collaborating and learning with you. My introduction to the city of Youngstown was through the members of the search committee who spoke plainly about the difficulties that the city continues to face, and how UUYO has made a commitment to be in relationship with these difficulties in order to transform lives and the city as a whole. I respect this very much, and was one of the reasons I was drawn to your congregation.

Our country as a whole needs communities like UUYO. If we are to thrive as a real people, I believe we must be connected to communities that spiritually nourish and guide us as we navigate our shared future. This is a time in history when church has an opportunity to truly matter again, and not just exist as

a Sunday pastime or mausoleum. Our cities need ministry, and they need it expressed in a way that can be understood and felt.

I'm continually reminded of the symbolism of the chalice: the bottom half representing community (from the communion cup), and the flame in the middle representing individual freedom. We are a faith that allows for each individual to discover their unique light with the support of community. Nobody has a light that is self sustaining. We need each other to continually light and relight the flames that make us most fully human. We need one another.

I have never visited Youngstown and I haven't yet stepped foot in UUYO...but I can't wait to. I sense your collective passion and vitality, and I can't wait to join you. I'll be coming to you with my wife Jennifer and our two cats: Simon and Jasper. I can't honestly say the cats are thrilled (they hate moving), but both Jennifer and I are looking forward to seeing Youngstown through your eyes, your hearts. I can't wait to meet in person. In faith, Joseph



### **Matt's Musings**

The theme this month is Joy, and I am filled with joy for UUYO, for you have successfully found your next minister! As I understand from the search committee (I remained, as is the practice, separate from the search process), you had five good candidates, and were able to attract your top candidate, Rev. Joseph Boyd. I am so happy to see that UUYO is in a strong place where there was so much interest from prospective ministers, and I am confident in your greatness in the coming years.

As you know (or maybe have just realized) I am departing from ministry at UUYO. I will be serving through July 16; Rev. Joseph will join UUYO in the beginning of July. Such a ministry overlap seldom happens, and it is our good fortune, for it gives Joseph and me a chance to transfer the many aspects of ministry at UUYO in an organized way.

Even as I hand off the ministry, I will be reminding myself (and others) that just because I did things one way, does not mean that Joseph needs to continue things my way. He brings his own strengths and style, and will bring change and improvement and from that change, we hope growth will emerge, in all its forms. We will formally recognize our ministerial transition on a shared service on Sunday, July 16.

As I am writing this column, I'm filled with joy for the next phase of my ministry and life. Liz and I have spent almost a week in the town of Ajijic, in Jalisco State, Mexico, on a reconnaissance trip. I've been meeting the congregation I will be serving, Lake Chapala UU Fellowship. We've found housing, and sorted out immigration issues, both human and canine, and are beginning to deal with numerous questions from healthcare to phone service and mail forwarding. We are quite excited to be coming into a different culture, and I am looking forward to a different kind of ministry.

As is part of our practice in professional UU ministry, please know that I will refrain from contact with members and friends of UUYO for a year after I depart. We follow this practice to make plain the shift

in ministry and to give the new minister space to form their own ministry. If I do encounter folks from UUYO - - at General Assembly, in travels, or otherwise -- I'll certainly be happy to see you, but won't encourage you to tell me how things are going at UUYO. I will also share those encounters with your new minister. June is a good month to be in touch with me for one more conversation, one final chance to reflect on UUYO, to hear about my plans, or just a chance to say goodbye. I encourage you to contact me ([minister@uuyo.org](mailto:minister@uuyo.org)), and we can set a time to meet, for a half hour or an hour, perhaps over coffee or even a meal, or just chat on the phone. I would love such a chance to connect, reflect, and say goodbye. See you in church,  
Matt



## **Reflections**

As usual, the church year draws to a close, but there is so much to do before it is over.

Before I talk about what's to come, I need to thank a whole bunch of people for events that have recently happened:

Youth Conference in Columbus- (May 11-13): Thank UU to Mindi and Shawn Raley for Sponsoring 3 of our youth to go to this event. They gave up their weekend AND had to sleep on a church floor! The kids had a great time, though.

Coming of Age Wilderness Retreat- (May 20-21): A HUUUGE Thank UU to those who made this day possible. The list is long, and elsewhere in this newsletter, but a very special Thank UU to Liz Hill,

Alison Locketti and Molly Toth for their planning and organizing all of the Coming of Age curriculum, including this retreat. Thank UU, too, to Scott Baker, for all of the extra work it took to find the location, and to him and Melissa Crabb for preparing the food for the retreat.

UUYORE Teaching Team: This is an appropriate time and place to thank all of the people who served our church this year by teaching our children and youth. Thank UU to: Alicia Baker, Michaella Moore, Hunter Thomas for teaching PreK/K, Kerry Planty and Mark Vance for teaching the elementary class, Scott Baker and Chesney Gulas for teaching the middle school class, Samantha Fitschen and Gina Vance for stepping up last-minute to take on the high school class, and as mentioned above, Liz Hill, Alison Locketti and Molly Toth for leading Coming of Age.

You will get to see all of their lovely faces at our next big event: June 4: RE Sunday- This is the day when we, in RE, teach you what we have spent the year learning. Because we had the Coming of Age program this year, our RE Sunday will be extra

special, as our youth will share their Credo, or Faith Statements, with the whole congregation. It's always amazing to hear the deep thoughts our youth have, and it might encourage you to revisit some of the big questions yourself!

June 11: This is the last Sunday of the Church year. We hope to see you all at the All-Church Picnic afterwards!

Summer: Beginning June 18, I am officially off for the summer. I will be returning August 15. There will be modified programming in the summer, where we will have a whole-group activity for any kids 3 and up who would like to participate. We are calling it a "Mystery Box Summer." Our RE teachers are putting together Mystery Boxes containing a lesson for each week. Each one will be different, and you won't know what's in there unless you come to find out!

I hope everyone has a happy, restful, rejuvenating summer. I will see you on the flip side of it!  
- BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education





**Welcome New Members of UUYO!**

On Sunday, May 7th, we welcomed six new members to UUYO. They are:

Sarah Conkle (not pictured)

Judy DeGenova (pictured with Gina Vance)

Korey Gall

Janet Jenkins (pictured with Andy Crabb)

Min Raley (pictured with Shawn Raley and Andy Crabb)

Shawn Raley (pictured with Min Raley and Andy Crabb)

Many of our newest members attended the *Belonging to UUYO* session that Reverend Matt and I offered on the previous Sunday. This membership orientation is a useful way to become more acquainted with our church and what it means to be a member, but it is not a requirement to membership. People may join the church at any time.

According to our bylaws ~ Any person who expresses sympathy with the Principles and Purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association, is at least sixteen

years of age, and who demonstrates a willingness to participate in the life of the congregation, may become a member regardless of race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical ability, ethnic origin, or political affiliation.

To become a member of the Church, an individual must sign the Membership Book in the presence of the minister and/or an active member of the Church.

We define the rights and responsibilities of membership as ~

Regular attendance at worship.

Voting at congregational meetings.

Making financial contributions.

Contributing time and talent.

Pursuing your own spiritual growth and development.

If you are feeling ready to become a member of the First Unitarian Universalist church and commit to our shared covenant, please let me or Reverend Matt know.

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus

Newcomer Involvement Coordinator



### **UUYO Youth Complete Coming of Age Class**

Congratulations to the five UUYO youth who concluded their Coming of Age class with a wilderness retreat on May 20-21: Josh Baker, Gwen Carlson, Clayton Henderson, Paige McKinnon, and Julia Scherber. These high school students have spent this church year discussing how UU values, history, and beliefs are at work in their own lives.

Their retreat provided an opportunity to reflect on their own religious formation, and they will present their Credo Statements as part of the RE service on Sunday June 4. Thanks to class facilitators Liz Hill, Alison Locketti, and Molly Toth; to Scott Baker and Melissa Crabb for coordinating the food; to the Womens Alliance for funding the cabin at Camp

Frederick; and to the COA Mentors who have coached and connected with the COA class: Jan Grigsby, Sarah Lowry, Wendy Pfrenger, Jim Rak, and Jim Rogers. UUYO members (and the parents of these youth) have a lot to be proud of, and we look forward to seeing where these young people will lead us in future.

### **Coffee with the Minister**

Tuesdays in June, 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 these Tuesdays in June, 11am-1pm: June 6, 13, 27. Drop on by, have a cup of coffee or a snack, and chat!

Rev. Matt



### **June Events**

6/3 Riverfest at B&O Station 12-5pm

6/4 RE Sunday with Teacher Appreciation Breakfast at 9:30am

6/4 Frack Free Meeting (CH) 6pm

6/6 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe) 11:00am

6/6 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm

6/6 Board Meeting (BR) 6pm

6/6 AA (CH) 7:30pm

6/10 UUYO Work Party 10am

6/11 All-Church Picnic after the service

6/11 Frack Free Meeting (CH) 6pm

6/13 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe) 11:00am

6/13 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm

6/13 AA (CH) 7:30pm

6/18 Frack Free Meeting (CH) 6pm

6/20 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe)

11:00am

6/20 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm

6/20 AA (CH) 7:30pm

6/25 Newcomers' Circle (SL) 12:15

6/25 Frack Free Meeting (CH) 6pm

6/27 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe)

11:00am

6/27 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm

6/27 AA (CH) 7:30pm



### **UUYO Work Party**

Saturday, June 10 at 10am

The next monthly work party will be Saturday, June 10, 10:00am. Rain date is June 17. Come one, come all; there is plenty to keep everybody busy. Questions? Call Bob Seibold, 724-981-4791.

### **UUYO Church Picnic**

Sunday, June 11, after the service

The annual UUYO picnic will be held June 11, 2017 from after the service (around 12:30 pm) until dark at the Chestnut Hill Pavilion in Mill Creek Park.

\*Bring a dish to share, cold drinks, and your own table settings. We will make sure to have a fire going so bring hot dogs, hamburgers or other items for the grill if you wish.

\*Bring sports equipment and any board or card games you enjoy.

\*The site has a playground area with a sandbox, a lawn area for Frisbee, badminton and other sports, and covered picnic tables for dining and playing board games or cards.

This year we will reveal the winner of the **Donate the Change You Want to See** fundraiser at the picnic. You can register your estimate at the Equal Exchange

Table on Sunday June 4th or at the picnic.

Remember, whoever comes closest to what is in the jar will have the opportunity to select an organization from Tom's list of organizations that support our values.

**Chestnut Hill Pavilion** is accessible from either Bears Den Rd. or Canfield Rd. If you are coming from Church:

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



### **Spiritual Explorations**

Wednesday June 14, 7-9pm, Schweitzer Lounge

We'll explore the June theme, "What does it mean to be a community of joy?," You are encouraged to look at the [June packet](#) beforehand, and try one or more of the spiritual exercises inside.

This will be the last Explorations group for the season. Led by Rev. Matt Alspaugh.



### **Newcomers' Circle**

Sunday, June 25 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).



## 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](mailto:lmohn2005@yahoo.com)). Please be sure and thank the folks on this month's team!

Team 1: June 4, 11, 18 & 25

- *Liz Hill – Communicator*
- *Jan Grigsby - Facilitator*
- Ginny & Frank Bishop
- Beth Foster
- John & Christine Gulgus
- Monica Hite

- Michaella Moore
- Marty O’Leary
- Kerry Planty
- Jim Rogers
- Peg Tomm
- Molly Toth

## 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](mailto:minister@uuyo.org)) or the church office ([office@uuyo.org](mailto:office@uuyo.org), 330-746-3067)



## Share the Plate

Our Share the Plate for June will go to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron to support their recently started Sanctuary Church efforts. UU Akron has cleared out their former library, and turned that room into housing for a family that is at risk of being deported under the current administration's policies. Our Share the Plate could be a first step in networking with UU Akron and other Sanctuary Churches to support immigrant justice.

## 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.

## Riverfest

Saturday, June 3rd, Noon to 5pm

Friends of the Mahoning River are sponsoring this event at B&O Station; 530 Mahoning Ave in Youngstown. There will be music, concessions, kayak and canoe rides, and a 50/50 raffle. There will also be a Summer Art Festival featuring Artists of the Rustbelt from 10am to 7pm inside the B&O Station. For more information, email [Mahoningriverfriends@gmail.com](mailto:Mahoningriverfriends@gmail.com) or visit [FriendsOfTheMahoning River.org](http://FriendsOfTheMahoningRiver.org)

## 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](mailto:office@uuyo.org), 330-746-3067) if you wish to list a church event on the calendar.

### Staff

Matt Alspaugh, Minister [minister@uuyo.org](mailto:minister@uuyo.org)

BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education  
[dre@uuyo.org](mailto:dre@uuyo.org)

Heather Best, Office Administrator [office@uuyo.org](mailto: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.

### Office Hours

Tuesday and Friday, 9am-3:30pm

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



