



The Steel Chalice

May, 2017

May Worship Theme: "Embodiment"

The purpose of life is not to transcend the body, but to embody the transcendent.

- *The Dalai Lama*

Religions, especially the dominant religions in America, tend to focus overmuch on the mind or the spirit, and leave the body out altogether, or worse, view the body as sinful or depraved. But to be fully religious and spiritual people, we have to bring our full selves, and that includes our bodies.

Sunday, May 7: "I Believe in Dog: An Animal Blessing Service"

What is it about our companion animals that causes us to go beyond belief, to love? They do love us, unconditionally, but do they believe in us? Does it matter? We will also make time to remember those departed ones who brought us much joy.

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associates: Gina Vance, Monica Hite

Chalice Lighter: Davita Fitzgerald

Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

Sunday, May 14: "Mother of Each of Us; Mother of Us All"

We are each organically connected with one another, and perhaps with all living things, through our mothers, our mother's mothers, and so on. We'll explore mothering, the archetypal mother, and mother of us all, the earth.

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associates: Christine & John Gulgas

Music: Jon Locketti

Sunday, May 21: "Getting Out of My Head"

Writer and contemplative Richard Rohr has said "the key to a healthy spiritual life is getting out of the top 3 inches of our body." As our theme for May is Embodiment, we explore getting out of our heads and into our bodies, all the while not leaving our heads too far behind.

Worship Leader: Rev. Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Sarah Lowry

Music: Jeff Crouse

Sunday, May 28: "Civil Conversations"

This service features presentations from an Interfaith Collaboration. Sister Rose Carter, Executive Director of the faith-based community organizing group ACTION, Alliance for Congregational Transformation Influencing Our Neighborhoods, will lead the service.

Worship Leader: Rose Carter

Worship Associates: Gary Davenport, with Pat Rosenthal, Jim Converse, Jim Rak, and Susie Beiersdorfer

Musician: Marcellene Hawk Mayhall

Bits from the Board



It's been a very busy month! We had a couple of congregational meetings regarding the replacement of the steeple and after taking an informal vote and finding that we don't have a majority opinion of the direction we should take, we are backing off a bit. This project has also taken a back seat given that we are actively searching for Matt's successor as minister here at UUYO. Molly Toth worked with Gina Vance, Dianna Mason, Jim Rogers, and Karen Lapidus to complete our application to the UUA for a contract minister. In May we hope to have inquiries from interested candidates for us to interview by phone/skype, and perhaps culminating with us making an offer for a minister to start with us in the fall. Stay tuned, we will provide updates as the process continues.

We have begun shaping a more comprehensive approach to managing projects. We've identified a list of projects that need to be considered, with replacement of the steeple being one of them, and are working on a plan for addressing all of them rather than working on one project at a time like we tried starting with the steeple replacement project. Below is a list of many things we need to consider. The plan that is forming is that we will convene meetings to

discuss the list, whether to add or subtract projects, how to prioritize projects, and how to pay for the projects. We will then present the comprehensive plan to the congregation for discussion and approval. If you are interested in shaping the plan, please keep an eye out for these meetings as we set them up and plan to attend.

- Potential projects being considered:
- Steeple project
- Patio project
- Interior building repairs/updates
- Exterior building repairs
- 125th Celebration
- Parking lot repair
- Steinway piano repair
- Sanctuary lighting upgrade

Please plan to join us on Saturday morning May 13 to work on things in and around the building that need to be done. It's a great opportunity to get to know other UUYO folks in a different context than our Sunday morning gatherings.

There is a lot going on at UUYO, and while getting a new minister and working on capital improvements are important, we don't want to let our focus be entirely inward. However, as we saw at coffee hour after the service on 4/23/2017, our members are involved in many community organizations and there are opportunities to get involved in these and others so that we keep working on our outward focus as well. Thanks for all that you do as members of the UUYO community!

Andy

Matts Musings

We had the pleasure of spending some time with Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray last Wednesday, when she was in town as a stop on her campaign for President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Susan was the settled minister before me, serving UUYO from 2003 to 2008.



During her visit, she and I did talk about her plans and goals if she is elected President. But we mostly talked about our experiences as ministers at UUYO. I realized that while we served in sequence, our ministries are woven together through your lives, and through the life of the church. One of us officiates a wedding, and the other celebrates a child dedication. One may minister through hospital and rehab visits, another leads a memorial service. We measure the years of our ministries through the life events -- large and small -- of each of you.

I realized that many of the things we have been able to accomplish since I have been at UUYO were the consequence of groundwork laid by Susan. She helped the church become more mission oriented and outwardly focused, and we've continued to live into those qualities. She oversaw the Accessibility capital campaign, which modeled campaigns for the Channing Hall remodel early in my ministry, and which may help frame a coming campaign for further building improvements in the next ministry. Our ministries were more effective when we were able to build on the good work of previous ministers. In this spirit, I hope that I am leaving the congregation stronger and more vital than when I arrived. I have every faith that you will attract an excellent next minister, one who can lead you to an even brighter future as a beacon of progressive religion for the Valley.

As for me, well ... my next ministry will be a bit of an adventure. I will be serving part-time as the minister of Lake Chapala UU Fellowship in Ajijic, in central Mexico. The Fellowship is one of three UU congregations in Mexico, and is comprised mostly of retirees from the US and Canada. The Fellowship is just ten years old, and I will be their first professional minister.

Liz and I will be moving down to Ajijic this summer. That's adventure enough, but an equally exciting part is that I will be working as the most remote member of a four-minister team: I will be associated with the First Unitarian Church of Houston, which has churches in three locations. I'm excited about this opportunity, for multi-site ministry may be one way we spread our faith in a future of changing religious participation in America.

Yes, I am leaving soon. But I remind myself that I'm right here, right now, today; I return to my practice to stay in the present, and to remain fully present with you. I welcome your conversations and visits in the remaining weeks we have together.

See you in church!

Matt

REFlections



Wow- it is
May.
Where has

the year gone? Welcome to the busy season!

We will have completed the last of our Social Action Sundays on April 30. What is exciting about this Social Action Sunday, is that it is coinciding with the national event of the White Supremacy Teach-In. We, along with over 560 UU churches across the country are taking the time, either on the 30th, or May 2, to lift up the term "White Supremacy," and start to unpack it. It is a most important time for this work, both in our congregations and association, as

well as across our culture and in our government. I am glad that we were a part of this movement.

May 2 will also be our last Children's Chapel for the church year. We will still be in "session" the first Sunday in June, but that day is being set aside for RE Sunday in church, where we share what we have been doing all year, and will also get a chance for our youth who have participated in the Coming of Age program this year to share their faith statements. It will be a service you won't want to miss. It is amazing to hear the deep thoughts of our youth to get us thinking about our own faith.

May 12-14, there is a Youth Con in Columbus, Ohio, and several of our youth will be attending.

May 20-21, the Coming of Age class will be doing their overnight Wilderness Retreat, where they will spend several hours out in nature... by themselves... with no electronic devices or other distractions...(yes, they can do it!), and will wrap up their program. A huge Thank-UU to Scott Baker for scouting out a spot for us to go, and to all of the facilitators: Liz Hill, Alison Locketti, Molly Toth, and mentors: Jim Rogers, Sarah Lowry, Jim Rak,

Wendy Pfrenger, and Jan Grigsby, for making this program possible this year!

May 28 is Memorial Day weekend. Hopefully families will still be able to come to church that day, since it is the last day to plan and prepare for RE Sunday the following week, where children and youth will be presenting a project from their class.

See? Calendar is full! Ramping up to start winding down for summer!

BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education

Coffee with the Minister Tuesdays in May, 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 May, (May 2 to 23), 11am-1pm. Drop on by, have a cup of coffee or a snack, and chat!

Rev. Matt

Forum: "Building Beloved Community: A Conversation on Race"

Sunday May 7, 9:45am

This is a continuation of our discussion of white supremacy that began with our service of April 30. Molly Toth and Rev. Matt Alspaugh will lead.

Writing as Spiritual Practice Tuesday May 9, 7-8:30pm, Board Room

We'll reflect on the May worship theme, "Embodiment." 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)

UUYO Work Party

Saturday, May 13 at 10am

Our second seasonal work party is scheduled for Saturday, May 13 at 10am. (Rain date is May 20th.) We hope to finish with the leaves and weeds leftover from Autumn and start on the patio area. All are welcome. We can use all the help we can get. Questions - call Bob Seibold at 724-981-4791.

Women's Alliance Meeting

Saturday, May 13 at 12:30pm

Women's Alliance liked The Cultivate Cafe so much that we will have our last meeting for the calendar year there again. The meeting will be held on May 13, 2017 at 12:30 p.m. The Cafe is located at 901 Elm St., two blocks south of the church (the other end of Edward's Florist block). The food is good, home cooked, natural. Members and non-members of Women's Alliance are invited. For questions call Louisa at [330-746-6897](tel:330-746-6897).

Spiritual Explorations

Wednesday May 17, 7-9pm, Schweitzer Lounge

We'll explore the May theme, "What does it mean to be a community of embodiment?," How can we be an embodied religion, one that takes body and heart and gut into consideration, as well as mind and spirit? You are encouraged to look at the May packet beforehand, and try one or more of the spiritual exercises inside.

Led by Rev. Matt Alsbaugh.

Book Group

Wednesday, May 17 at 7:15pm

On Wednesday, May 17, 2017 the UUYO Book Group will meet at the home of Melissa Smith at 7:15 pm to discuss *The Education of Henry Adams*. This title was recommended by Garrison Keillor on *The Writer's Almanac* the morning after our February meeting, and since it was on almost everyone's "I should have read" list we decided to add the book to our calendar. Yes, it is 705 pages long, but we have already read *The Magic Mountain* at 854 pages.

This is an autobiography of Henry Adams who was the grandson of the John Quincy Adams and great-grandson John Adams. According to the Wikipedia entry, "*The Education* is much more a record of Adams's introspection than of his deeds. ...The organizing thread of the book is how the 'proper' schooling and other aspects of his youth was time wasted, thus, his search for self-education through experiences, friendships, and reading. ... Two aspects set *The Education* apart from the common run of autobiographies. First, it is narrated in the third person; second, it is frequently sarcastic and humorously self-critical."

Newcomers' Circle

Sunday, May 28 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).

Keeping It Real

A reflection by James Rogers

Funny how reality can step in and change the dynamics of a seemingly well ordered plan. The plan I'm referring to is the transition of leadership about to happen at General Assembly in New Orleans this June, the presidency of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This year the denomination has three exceptional women candidates ready to take on the job of a faith so uncommon that people look at me weird when I mention it.

The way it was supposed to happen is Peter Morales, the first Hispanic president was to surrender the presidency to the first woman in UU history. And to backtrack some, before Peter Morales was elected, the UUA elected the first black to the post. William Sinkford held the post for two terms. Now, thanks to an unfortunate crisis over minority hiring in the Southern Region, of a paid staffer, UUA president Peter Morales has decided to resign his post three months early.

I have to utmost respect for Mr. Morales, and it's sad to see him depart the way he did. This can happen when communications break down among the leadership. This happens all the time in the private sector.

To my estimation, no one comes out a winner here, and for those wanting the Cliff Notes version of events, here it is. The UUA is divided into five regions with an appointed leader for each. The Southern region had an opening with a diverse mixture of candidates. The white one was chosen leaving hard feeling among some UU's, especially some black members. They want to know why all five regions have a white person in charge. We as UU's have long prided ourselves as being one of the most progressive faiths around, and we have proven to be just that in many areas, but as in most things the perception is shaded by our blind spots.

In his letter Peter Morales states the next president and the denomination as a whole must use wisdom, vision, and courage going forward in order for us to heal. Those attributes are found in all cultures and all races and I cannot see us spiraling out of

control at a time in history when our message of inclusiveness is needed more than ever due to current events in the nation.

Just as in the larger culture of the United States, the three-legged stool of class, gender, and ethnicity has seeped into the workings of Unitarian Universalism too. We still are a denomination of mostly upper class, well educated, and white congregants, but as it turns out we have just as many female ministers as male ones, so the gender thing seems to be settled.

I'm a black Unitarian Universalist, with a college degree, but in the lower economic strata. My profile might not fit the overall profile of the average UU congregant, but that doesn't matter. The fact that I am here means that I have something in common with other UU's that transcends education, race and economic status. That something is a passion for a liberal faith. It may or may not qualify me to be in a position of leadership however.

Mark Morrison-Reed, the former instructor at Meadville-Lombard Seminary has a wealth of information about the black experience in Unitarian Universalism, and I had the pleasure of meeting him at GA once and attended his workshop. What I remember him saying that day is this. We as UU's must remember that we as a faith community are not immune to movements in the larger culture. We bring our biases and perspectives from our life experiences with us.

What pains me the most is the lack of knowledge about our faith on many levels. One important one is the struggle of black people of all social-economic levels to integrate into the higher echelons of the UUA. I'm a firm believer that the more enlightened one is, the more one is able to see the big picture, and then make the right decision.

In the preface of his book, "Darkening the Doorways" he states; "African Americans will be drawn to liberal religion as they have in the past. Our challenge today is to develop a culturally inclusive vision that is grand and hopeful enough to inspire, and a way of being that is open and welcoming to all races and cultures: Asian, Native American, Hispanic, and those with roots in Africa. As we build in the present for the future we dream of, the only reliable foundation is one that honestly acknowledges, grieves, and celebrates the past; otherwise we will remain captive to beliefs and behavior that have not served liberal religion well." Other books by Mr. Reed include; *The Selma Awakening*, *In Between*, *A Memoir of an Integration Baby*, *Been in the Storm So Long*, and *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*.

Another African American of note in the denomination is William Sinkford, and as I mentioned before a two term president of the UUA, and currently one of three individuals

-serving as caretakers of the UUA until a new one is elected in June. His story is a fascinating one worth reading about. You can gain some needed knowledge about him and the recent history of our faith, and as Mark Morrison-Reed noted, how outside forces can impact our faith, sometimes in a positive or negative way. I urge everyone to read his article in the UU World titled "The Dream of White Innocence" and prepare to be schooled.

I'm sure you're heard the question before of why there are not more black UU's. My short answer is this. All blacks don't think alike, and neither do all whites. The familiar refrain that Unitarian Universalism is a faith dominated by whites may stem from the fact it began in Transylvania in the 16th century. Not to many brothers in the land of the vampires I would imagine. But over time, as our faith moved beyond the traditional dogma-oriented practices, it attracted freethinkers of all hues. I find it odd that people automatically look at a black person and assume them to be Christian, when Christianity was basically a white religion given to blacks.

No one gives a black person Unitarian Universalism. They embrace it because it fits their mindset. Myself, and people like Mark Morrison-Reed, William Sinkford and countless others are members of this faith not because it's a mostly white faith with the presumed acceptance of white privilege. We are here in spite of it. I'm here for the long haul. Are you?

James Rogers



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 this month's team!

Team 4: May 7, 14, 21 & 28

- *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

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 Alsbaugh (minister@uuyo.org) or the church office (office@uuyo.org, 330-746-3067)

Share the Plate

Our Share the Plate for May will be used to replenish the minister's discretionary fund. We've used this fund to confidentially help out people in our church community in times of trouble, such as sudden job loss, for groceries or to keep utilities on, for example.

May Events

5/2 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe) 11:00am
5/2 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm
5/2 Board Meeting (BR) 6pm
5/2 AA (CH) 7:30pm
5/7 Building a Beloved Community: A Conversation on Race (CH) 9:45am
5/7 Social Media Meeting (BR) 12:30pm
5/7 Frack Free Meeting (CH) 6pm
5/8 Worship Associates' Meeting (SL) 6:30pm
5/9 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe) 11:00am
5/9 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm
5/9 Writing as Spiritual Practice (BR) 7-8:30pm
5/9 AA (CH) 7:30pm
5/13 UUYO Work Party 10am
5/13 Women's Alliance 12:30pm
5/14 Frack Free Meeting (CH) 6pm
5/16 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe) 11:00am
5/16 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm
5/16 AA (CH) 7:30pm
5/17 Set-up for Collectable Sale (AC) 6-8pm
5/17 Spiritual Explorations (SL) 7pm
5/17 Book Group 7:15pm at Melissa Smith's
5/18 Set-up for Collectable Sale (AC) 6-8pm
5/19 Collectable Sale (AC) 8am-3pm
5/20 Collectable Sale (AC) 8am-3pm
5/21 Frack Free Meeting (CH) 6pm
5/23 Coffee with the Minister (Cultivate Cafe) 11:00am
5/23 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm
5/23 AA (CH) 7:30pm
5/24 Movie: Gender Revolution (CH) 7-9pm
5/28 Newcomers' Circle (SL) 12:15pm
5/28 Frack Free Meeting (CH) 6pm
5/30 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm
5/30 AA (CH) 7:30pm

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 or visit 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, 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	Committee Chairpersons
Andy Crabb, President Sarah Lowry, Secretary Louisa Berger, Treasurer Tom Beck Sarah Lowry Ralph Malmer Linda Mohn Molly Toth Anita Wesler	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