



The Steel Chalice

October, 2017

October Worship Theme: "Courage"

"Courage is knowing what not to fear."

- Plato



"Courage"

As we prepare for our pledge drive, I've been reflecting on the courage to be generous. The theme this month is courage, and I've come to understand that courage is always on intimate speaking terms with fear and doubt. It is no wonder that many theologians in the postmodern age stress courage as the single most important response to life - the courage to be, the courage to love, the courage to give and receive.

As a faith, we are being charged with being courageous, and this courage is intimate with fear - fear of becoming irrelevant, fear of being out of touch, fear of being stuck in institutional pain. It takes courage to witness pain, and dare to interpret them as growing pains toward a more beloved community. It takes courage to not shirk or gloss over hard truths, while simultaneously holding in our hearts the possibility for liberation and good will toward all. It takes courage to witness the cost of generations of people just like us who have continued to harm one another and our earth in blindness, and still trust something that is greater than greed and self interest. This takes great courage.

In life there are things that are taken from us, things that stay inside us, and things we give away. The first reality we have little choice over. We experience loss - loss of beloved people, loss of health, loss of certain opportunities. Some things we keep inside us - memories, thoughts, passions. Ultimately at our death, we give all this away. The hardest part is to decide what we would like to give while we're still alive. It can be difficult to discern what courage can look like in our life, and the life of the times we're living in.

I am convinced that the number one expression of courage in this current age is generosity. We live in a time of great fear - political and economic insecurity, a waning sense of pride or optimism, a time that is on daily speaking terms with tragedy and disaster. It takes courage first and foremost to be generous to ourselves and our experience, including our fears and doubts. This the most important act of generosity - giving ourselves compassion for the way we've reacted and been confused, overwhelmed. In offering generosity to ourselves, we can begin to naturally offer it to others, to our imperfect institutions, to our imperfect nation.

As we celebrate our 125th anniversary this year, I encourage you to give some thought to what it means for you to muster the courage to be generous. This is going to be especially important as we face an age dominated by scarcity, fear, and judgment. Having the courage to be generous will allow us to hold this reality with care, without succumbing completely to it.

Our church is in a special position to become a beacon for this new America - an America learning to reconcile tragedy, reconcile with its past. Our church and our city are not unfamiliar with difficulty, with living into realities without clear answers and definitive hope. This is our great strength, as we step into becoming a faith that can speak plainly and compassionately to a country in distress. Let us be generous - let us be generous with ourselves, with our neighbors, let us share our message with a country yearning for this light.

In faith,

Rev. Joseph



Sunday, October 1: "Facing the Day"

The blinds are drawn - our phones are turned off, we've disabled Facebook, we're careful to avoid news that were certain will be tragic.

We never know what will happen on a given day. Even the topic of weather is no longer a polite topic - it is loaded with the possibility of yet again another imminent disaster.

What grants us courage to face the day?

Come Sunday, prepared to open the blinds once again.

Rev. Joseph Boyd - minister

Christine Gulgas - worship associate

BeckyAnn Harker - story

Jeff Crouse - guitar



The September Board meeting took place during the week the church exterior got a fresh coat of paint. It was nice to arrive at the building and see it looking spruced up. The outside of the building now presents a fresher face to the world and that is a positive thing. Inside the building are multitudes of positive things!

Most folks don't know that the piano, or parts of the piano, went on a field trip recently. Our Steinway piano's "action," which is the system of levers that move the felt hammers to strike the strings when keys are pressed, needed repair and our piano technician, Mark Shengle, took both the action and the keyboard to his workshop in North Canton to make the necessary repairs. Everything is back in place and I've heard how good it sounds – a benefit of working in the office while Marcellene practices!

On Sunday, September 24, we celebrated the beginning of the 125th Anniversary year of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown with an inspirational multigenerational service and a delicious luncheon in Channing Hall. There will be events throughout the year to help us, and the wider community, reflect on what this congregation has accomplished in its history and to look forward to how we want to engage in the future.

Now we are looking forward to the next big event which is the Ordination of Joseph Boyd on October 29th. It has been many years since there was an ordination here and it should be a wonderful event – so watch the Weekly Update and your email for more details. (Those without email will be contacted by snail mail or phone between newsletter cycles.)

In the past few weeks UUYO has been the beneficiary of generous gifts from the estates of Roger Jones and Mildred J. Courtley; we are very grateful for the gifts and that UUYO was significant presence in their lives. Bequests are an important way to assure the future of UUYO. Many members have remembered UUYO in their estates and we continue to benefit from these bequests. Please see a member of the Endowment Committee (Gene Pusateri, Marty O'Leary, or Lowell Satre) for information on how you can remember UUYO in your own estate.

Louisa Berger,
Board Treasurer



REflections

It has been said, by several different people, that Courage is not the absence of fear, but the ability to push through it and do what needs to be done.

We think of courage, often in times of disaster- the bystander who went into a burning building to save a life, the rescue workers who intentionally go into hurricane-stricken areas, still flooded and dangerous, the men and women in uniform- military, police, firefighters, who face danger on a daily basis. These are courageous acts. It's easy to write these off as something "I could never do" or something for other people, the courageous ones.

But there are other, less dramatic, ways to be courageous every day: speaking out when someone says or does something you don't agree with, speaking your mind, when it might not be a popular idea, speaking your truth, being an authentic you, standing up to peer pressure. We will be exploring some of these ways we can be, and have been, courageous during our Children's Chapel this month. The Coming of Age youth, who have recently had their very successful first overnight/introduction to the program, will meet in the Youth Room for their curriculum during our Children's Chapel time.

One way we can show a little bit of courage this month is by attending the 7th Annual Non-Violence Parade on October 1. The organizing of our UUYO marchers is being done by our Social Justice Committee, and they have even scheduled a poster-making party for Saturday, September 30, at 3 pm at church. We have typically had many families come to the parade- I hope we can have a good showing this year too!

Sometimes it takes courage to step out of the known and embrace change. We humans tend to really like patterns and consistency. In RE this year, we are stepping out of the comfort box just a little, as we embrace our theme-based curriculum this year in a more fluid class structure. This is the month to see how it goes, as we get into our regular church year and teacher rotations. I am looking forward to this change, as it will bring us more fully in line with the rest of the church.

October has five Sundays, which means the last Sunday of the month, which is our Social Action Sunday. This will be a time for us to show our courage as we stand up and act on what is right. Details of the activity are to follow, but we will be doing our Social Action Project during regular church time.

The last Sunday of the month is also the date of Rev. Joseph's Ordination. Come back in the afternoon, at 4:00, to witness the ceremony of officially ordaining Joseph as a minister. Our faith is unique, as our ministers can only be officially ordained by congregations, and we have the honor of doing this for him. Ministers from all over the previous Ohio-Meadville District will be here for the ordination, and there will be a big party to follow!

Look below for our Question of the Month! Happy October!

- BeckyAnn Harker,
Director of Religious Education

QUESTION:

What have you done or said that has been courageous?

Office Hours

Office hours for Heather Best, UUYO's Office Administrator, are as follows:

Tuesday and Friday, 9am-3:30pm

Sunday, 9-11am and 12:30-2:30pm



October Events

10/1 Annual Non-Violence Parade & Rally 3pm Wick Ave & Wood St

10/1 Frack Free Meeting (BR) 6pm

10/1 YOYPAA (CH) 6pm

10/1 Al Petteway & Amy White Concert (SA) 7pm

10/3 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm

10/3 Board Meeting (BR) 6pm

10/3 AA (CH) 7:30pm

10/4 Small Group Ministry (SL) 7pm

10/7 NA Meeting (CH) 6:30pm

10/8 Building Beloved Community (CH) 1pm

10/8 Meditation Group (BR) 4-5pm

10/8 Frack Free Meeting (BR) 6pm

10/8 YOYPAA (CH) 6pm

10/10 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm

10/10 AA (CH) 7:30pm

10/12 Valley Voices Event (CH) 6pm

10/14 Work Party 10am

10/14 Womens' Alliance 12:30pm at T.J.'s Restaurant & Lounge

10/14 NA Meeting (CH) 6:30pm

10/15 Worship Associates Meeting 12:15pm (SA)

10/15 Frack Free Meeting (BR) 6pm
10/15 YOYPAA (CH) 6pm
10/17 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm
10/17 AA (CH) 7:30pm
10/18 Young Adult Group Meeting (SA) 7pm
10/18 Book Club 7:15pm at Melissa's
10/21 NA Meeting (YR) 6:30pm
10/22 Newcomers' Circle (SL) 12:15pm
10/22 Frack Free Meeting (BR) 6pm
10/22 YOYPAA (CH) 6pm
10/24 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm
10/24 AA (CH) 7:30pm
10/28 NA Meeting (CH) 6:30pm
10/29 Ordination 5-6:30pm
10/29 Reception 6:30-8pm
10/29 Frack Free Meeting (BR) 6pm
10/29 YOYPAA (YR) 6pm
10/31 Stretch & Creative Movement class (CH) 5:30pm
10/31 AA (CH) 7:30pm

Legend for locations: (CH) Channing Hall; (SA) Sanctuary; (SL) Schweitzer Lounge; (YR) Youth Room

Al Petteway and Amy White Concert Sunday, October 1 at 7pm

Grammy and Emmy award-winning folk artists Al Petteway and Amy White perform in the Mahoning Valley for the first time in nearly 10 years right here at the UUYO.

Al & Amy have long been a favorite, with their eclectic repertoire that includes original, traditional, contemporary Celtic- and Appalachian-influenced music with occasional nods

to Blues, New Age, and Jazz. Their performances feature acoustic guitar, mandolin, Celtic harp, piano, banjo, mountain dulcimer, and some of the finest vocals you'll hear in any genre.

Al & Amy's music has been featured on a number of Ken Burns documentary films, most notably the soundtrack of the Ken Burns EMMY-winning documentary, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. Their album, "Caledon Wood," (which includes the main theme of the National Parks documentary) was counted among the essential albums of the past 20 years in the *Acoustic Guitar Magazine* 20th anniversary issue. Al and Amy have released over 20 full-length recordings, and over a dozen instructional DVDs and books.

Tickets start at just \$16. Go to alandamy.com for more information.

Building Beloved Community Sunday, October 8 at 1pm

Building the Beloved Community: Conversations for Action on Racism: Last spring, our congregation took part in the UU White Supremacy Teach-In, a denomination-wide day of exploration and examination of the power of white supremacy in our congregations. We want to revive and deepen that conversation, and work to equip ourselves to take action individually and collectively. UUYO will engage in a series of film screenings, discussions, and trainings in the coming months. We view this as sacred work, and we invite all of you to join in on this important conversation. We will be screening and discussing the three-part documentary series "[Race: The Power of an Illusion](#)" and supplementing discussion with a series of articles.

Our first meeting will be Sunday, October 8 at 1pm in Channing Hall. We'll screen part 1 of "Race: The Power of an Illusion," and read "Unpacking the Invisible Napsack" by Peggy McIntosh (printed copies will be made available in the sanctuary.) Subsequent meetings will be held Sunday, October 22 at 1pm and November 5 at 1pm. Readings will be announced.

All in our congregation and beyond are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Lisbet Searle-White at lisbetsw@gmail.com or Molly Toth at molly.e.toth@gmail.com.

UUYO Meditation Group Sunday, October 8 from 4 to 5pm

All are welcome to attend UUYO's meditation group beginning Sunday Oct. 8, 2017, from 4 to 5pm. If it is your first time attending this group, please come 15 minutes early (3:45) for some basic instruction.

The group will meet in the Board Room at UUYO on the second and fourth Sunday of the month through the end of December. Teachings will be presented in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. We will be using the book, **Turning the Mind into an Ally**, by Sakyong Mipham. Each meeting, the group will read a section of the book, have a short discussion, and then sit together in silent meditation. There is no fee for these meditation sessions - just bring a peaceful spirit and an open mind. If you have questions, please contact Linda Scharf by phone at (412) 295-1171 or by email at spiritdancer2008@yahoo.com



UUYO Work Party Saturday, October 14 at 10am

This month's work party will be Saturday, October 14, at 10:00am. Rain date is October 21. All are welcome to enjoy the Autumn leaves - with a rake. Questions? Call Bob Seibold, 724-981-4791.

Women's Alliance

Saturday, October 14 at 12:30pm

Women's Alliance will meet on Oct. 14 at 12:30pm at T.J.'s Restaurant & Lounge, located in the Holiday Inn, 7410 South Avenue Boardman, OH 44512. (One can see it from the intersection of Route 224 and South Ave.). The main items for the meeting are election of officers and the planning of the Church's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner in November. Confirmation of attendance would be appreciated. Call Eugenia at 330-953-3086 or 330-503-4039.

UUYO Young Adult Group

Sunday, October 18 from 7-8:30pm

UUYO Young Adults (for folks aged 18-35ish) will host its first-ever small group ministry meeting on Wednesday, October 18 from 7 pm - 8:30 pm in the Sanctuary. We hope you'll join us for a night of reflection and discussion (and snacks). For more information, please contact Molly Toth at molly.e.toth@gmail.com or (330) 360-7949.

UUYO Book Group

Wednesday, October 18 at 7:15pm

On Wednesday, October 18, 2017 the UUYO Book Group will meet at the home of Melissa Smith at 7:15 pm to discuss titles by Alexander McCall Smith. No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency is the first book of the Precious Ramotswe mysteries set in Botswana. "Tactful, effective, and insightful detecting comes naturally to this very independent woman in this highly entertaining humorous cozy mystery series." 44

Scotland Street, set in Edinburgh, is the first in a new series. “Pat rents a room from the handsome and cocky Bruce, at 44 Scotland Street, and discovers that she has also acquired some colorful new neighbors, including Domenica, an eccentric widow.”

The October selection is An American Exodus: A Record of Human Erosion by Dorothea Lange and Paul Taylor. “First published in 1939, An American Exodus is one of the masterpieces of the documentary genre. Produced by incomparable documentary photographer Dorothea Lange with text by her husband, Paul Taylor, An American Exodus was taken in the early 1930s while the couple were working for the Farm Security Administration (FSA) The book documents the rural poverty of the depression-era exodus that brought over 300,000 migrants to California in search of farm work, a westward mass migration driven by economic deprivation as opposed to the Manifest Destiny of 19th century pioneers.” An additional title that might be read along with this selection is John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath, the classic novel about a family, forced from their farm in Oklahoma during the Depression, who set out for California in search of jobs, land, and hope for a better future.



Newcomers' Circle

Sunday, October 22 at 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).

Ordination of Rev. Joseph Boyd Sunday, October 29 at 5pm

UUYO will celebrate the ordination of Rev. Joseph Boyd at a formal ceremony on Sunday, October 29 at 5 pm, with a reception to follow. We hope you will join us for this joyous occasion in the life of Rev. Joseph, our church, and our faith. Many of Rev. Joseph's mentors and fellow ministers, and dignitaries from the area will also be in attendance.

For more information about the ordination, please contact Molly Toth at molly.e.toth@gmail.com or (330) 360-7949. Church members are asked to assist with the preparation of finger foods and hors d'oeuvres for the reception. If you are willing and able to provide food, please contact Hope Lovrinoff-Moran at (330) 507-5313 to sign up.



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 team!

Team 1: October 1, 8, & 15

- *Monica Hite - Communicator*
- *Jan Grigsby - Facilitator*

- Ginny & Frank Bishop
- Beth Foster
- Korey Gall
- John & Christine Gulgas
- Monica Hite
- Michaela Moore
- Marty O'Leary
- Kerry Planty
- Mindi & Shawn Raley
- Jim Rogers
- Peg Tomm
- Molly Toth
- Lisbet White

Team 2: October 22 & 29

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

Donate and Do Good

Have you come across the bestselling book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*? The author, Marie Kondo, recommends, starting with our wardrobes, letting go of items that are cluttering our lives and only hold onto things that spark joy. If you care to experiment with that concept of paring down, we have a suggestion for you. Donate unwanted clothing items to **Penny Pinchers**, consignment shop, to the account opened by UUYO. Bring your items to church with you and leave them (fall and winter items through December 15) on hangers in the hallway off Channing Hall. Clothing must be clean and in good condition. Please leave your name so we can thank you. If you have questions or more than 10 items to donate, please email Anita Wesler (awesler@zuckas.com). Penny Pinchers is a nonprofit organization operated for the benefit of The Silver Lining Cancer Fund, Inc. A check for 40% of items sold each season will be given to UUYO. Together, individuals and UUYO will benefit.

Share the Plate

Our Share the Plate collection, half of the loose plate offerings in October, will go to the **Youngstown Playhouse**. The Youngstown Playhouse stages innovative, unique, and accessible live theatrical performances. Now in its 93rd season, it is one of the longest-operating and most respected community theaters in the United States. It once reigned as the nation's largest community theater.

Throughout its history, the Playhouse has never operated on state or federal funds, but instead relied on community support through ticket sales and donations to continue its mission of entertaining and educating theatergoers from the Mahoning Valley and beyond.

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. Joseph Boyd (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.

Please contact the office (office@uuyo.org, 330-746-3067) if you wish to list a church event on the calendar.

Staff

Rev. Joseph Boyd, Minister jboyd@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

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

Karen Lapidus, Nominating

Jan Grigsby, LGBTQ+ Committee

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.

The rainbow flag outside of the church signifies that UUYO is an official "Welcoming Congregation" for the LGBTQ+ community.

Office Hours

Tuesday and Friday, 9am-3:30pm

Sunday, 9-11am and 12:30-2:30pm