



THE STEEL CHALICE

August 2018

August Worship Theme: "Peacemaking"

"If there is to be peace in the nations...There must be peace in the heart."
— Lao-Tse



Sunday, August 5, 2018

11am Service: "The Path of Peacemaking"

The Dalai Lama said, "The world does not need more successful people. The planet needs more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers and lovers of all kinds." The path to peace starts from within us. We explore the wisdom teachings on cultivating peace. We learn to practice peace through guided meditation and

contemplation. We leave the sanctuary and enter the summer light breathing easier in this world.

Sarah Lown and Linda Scharf – worship leaders
Jeff Crouse - guitar



Peacemaking

Recently I watched "Zen Diaries of Garry Shandling," a documentary which traced the comedian's career and personal life through the lens of his journal questions about the nature and meaning of being a human being. A common theme that emerged through his journals and his life was the firm belief that his career was a vehicle to becoming more himself, a way to finally be at peace. The film showed that it is really quite difficult to practice this consistently, even if we know it intellectually. It is really hard to let go, and allow our vulnerable selves to emerge fresh, vital, and joyful. Inner peace is just as elusive as world peace.

We are bombarded with images of conflict. We can readily recall the protests of Palestinians in Gaza which ended in shootings and deaths after our government made a decision to move our embassy to Jerusalem, as well as recent acts to separate immigrant parents from their children, putting those children in cages beyond the eyesight of the public. There are too many conflicts to name even within the last year alone. Besides public conflicts, there are also innumerable personal conflicts that are being experienced. People who are in conflict with their employers, with their spouses, their parents, with their own body and mind. Conflict seems to be an unavoidable fact of being alive.

There are many definitions of peace, but the definition that resonates with me is a sense of belonging or coming home. Peace is feeling that we are in our

rightful place, and that the world, as chaotic and unjust as it is, is part of that rightful place. There is a sense of harmony that undergirds the chaos, a thread that connects us at a level deeper than our prejudice, opinions, or hatred. Most of us have experienced this feeling at least once, perhaps in nature, or surrounded by loved ones. There is a sense that we are right where we need to be in this moment.

It is a naive mistake to think that we can only have peace in the absence of conflict. Conflict is part of the nature of our world, and it is part of the nature of our own mind and human makeup. Struggle seems to be part of the human package we've inherited. But here's the kicker -- so is peace. Peace is also part of our inheritance as human beings. Peace is intrinsic to our being as a species, even if we hardly realize it.

To be a peacemaker is to participate in an undoing, a deconstruction of our world. Instead of operating solely out of a selfish desire which is competing with a multitude of other selfish desires, we allow ourselves to step back and undo all our chaotic handywork. To be a peacemaker is to stubbornly insist there is another way to live, and instead of merely insisting on it (creating more conflict), we live it.

There is conflict that is productive. Conflict that challenges our sensibilities and certainties about human nature and civilization is a kind of worthy conflict. Those who have engaged throughout history in non-violent protests are in touch with this kind of conflict. It demonstrates another way outside of our normal way of looking at the world through lenses of greed and hatred. There is another way, and this way will most certainly be in conflict with the status quo. To engage in productive conflict is to be a peacemaker.

In the month of August, I invite you to reflect on which kinds of conflict are productive for you to engage in. Instead of an impossible definition of peace which requires no conflict, see if there are conflicts worth engaging in which wake our senses to a hidden harmony, a new way of living and seeing ourselves as human beings. There are conflicts that have the capacity to deconstruct who we think we are, and what

we must do, and in that is a kind of peace. In the face of conflict, yes, we can allow ourselves to be more of who we truly are.

In faith,
Rev. Joseph

Rev. Joseph Away August 1-21, 2018

Rev. Joseph will be away Aug. 1-21 on study leave and vacation. Sarah Lown will be taking his place in the pulpit for the month of August. For any questions, feel free to contact Office Administrator, Heather Best at 330-746-3067 or office@uuyo.org.

Contacting Rev. Joseph

If you want to be in touch with Rev. Joseph Boyd August 22 to August 31, please email him at jboyd@uuyo.org.

Bits from the Board

At the congregational meeting on July 8th, the congregation approved a proposal to install a cupola where our old steeple used to be. It was a lively discussion that brought out many thoughts for and against and ended up with a definite decision to move forward. We have provided notice to proceed to our contractor and are expecting the project to be completed sometime in October.

There are several steps to go through first, including an engineering review of the building and approval of construction plans as well as securing various permits from the City of Youngstown. Once these preliminary steps are in place, the cupola will be ordered from the manufacturer in Texas. The contractor will do some preparatory work to be ready for the cupola to arrive. When the cupola arrives, they will have a crane on site to lift it into place and do the installation, which is expected to take just 1 day. We'll have to plan an all day party with a cookout in Wick Park so we can watch! Let Heather or me know if you like that idea and we'll see about planning it.

Marguerite Felice has joined the board to finish out Anita Wesler’s term this year. Anita is finalizing her plans to move to Washington State and while we will miss her presence among us we wish her well and hope she enjoys her new home.

The Board is working with the Stewardship committee to plan out the Stewardship drive for 2019. It has been an exciting year where we have benefited from the congregation’s support in being able to accomplish our goals for 2018. We’ll be proposing some new things that we might want to consider supporting to continue the excitement and energy we’ve experienced this year. If you have suggestions for what you would like to see happen at UUYO next year and beyond, please let Rev. Joseph, me, or any Board member know as we make our plans for the future.

Thank you all for the confidence and support you have placed in the Board and Rev. Joseph.

Andy Crabb,
Board President



REflections

Happy Summer! I am officially off for the summer (July and half of August), but RE is NOT ending!

I am very excited about our summer program this year. We are celebrating the diversity of our congregation as various members share about their cultures. We have many members who were born, raised, extensively visited and/or extensively studied various countries around the world, and they are going to share about their countries and cultures.

In August, our around-the-world adventures will continue with Diana Palardy sharing about Thailand, Amani Wadi-Ramahi will talk about Jordan, Susie Beiersdorfer will talk about her many trips to China, and Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez will share about his

homeland of Cuba. The whole 80 Days Around the World will be concluded on Labor Day with Stephanie Crabb talking about Germany.

I hope many of you will be able to come and learn about the countries that help to make our congregation what it is! See you later this month!

--BeckyAnn Harker
Director of Religious Education

Share the Plate

This program designates half the loose collection at Sunday services to one specific charity per month. Our share the plate recipient for August is The Colony. A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, the mission of the Colony is to engage, organize, and mobilize residents around initiatives and projects aimed at improving the Youngstown Community. Competency and communication gaps, combined with poverty and lack of easily accessible resources are inhibiting sustainable community growth in Youngstown. The Colony envisions an informed and engaged population of Youngstown residents whose health, communities, and strong economy are sustained by synergistic local, national, and global relationships. They are trying to achieve this vision through City cleanups and greenspace initiatives, which include creating education and job opportunities.

For more information on the Colony’s work, visit their social media pages (@TheColony330) or email the Executive Director, Keland Logan, keland@thecolonyyoungstown.com

Thank UUs

Our thanks to Edna Annabel, Martin and Louisa Berger, Andy Crabb, Marguerite Felice, Kadey Kimpel, Jim Morgan, Jim Rak, Lowell Satre, and Bob Seibold for their contributions to the July 21 work party. Many tasks were completed, including weeding and other landscaping tasks that has the vegetation looking better than it has in a long time. For a full accounting of what was accomplished, please see the Buildings & Grounds report in the “About Us” section of the website.

August Events

8/2/18 Art, Physics, & Resonant Fields (Patio room) 7pm
8/4/18 Northside Farmers' Market 10am-1pm
8/5/18 Build Your Own Theology (SL) 9:30am
8/5/18 Art, Physics, & Resonant Fields (Patio room)
12:30pm
8/9/18 Board Meeting (BR) 6-8pm
8/11/18 Northside Farmers' Market 10am-1pm at UUYO
8/12/18 Build Your Own Theology (SL) 9:30am
8/12/18 Meditation (YR) 4-5pm (3:45pm if first time)
8/9/18 Board Meeting (BR) 6-8pm
8/18/18 Northside Farmers' Market 10am-1pm at UUYO
8/18/18 Work Party at 10am
8/18/18 Circle Supper 6:30-8:30pm
8/19/18 Newcomers' Circle (SL) 12:15pm
8/19/18 Worship Associates Meeting (BR) 12:30pm
8/25/18 Northside Farmers' Market 10am-1pm at UUYO
8/26/18 Foreign Policy Discussion Group (SL or CC)
12:30pm
8/26/18 Meditation (YR) 4-5pm (3:45pm if first time)
8/31/18 International Overdose Awareness Day Event
(SA) 5-10pm

Legend for locations: (BR) Board Room (CC) Children's Chapel/Patio Room (CH) Channing Hall; (SA) Sanctuary; (SL) Schweitzer Lounge; (YR) Youth Room

Art, Physics, and Resonant Fields Six Week Workshop Sundays and Thursdays through August 5

You are invited to join us for an ongoing workshop. We will meet Sundays from 12:30 - 2:00pm, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and Thursdays from 7 to 8:30pm, July 5, 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2. A commitment is requested, but not required. Those who can only attend from time to time may do so, and students may bring along a friend if they wish. You'll need a large art tablet. Bring colored pencils if you have them; I will have some available to share. For more information, contact Clare Puskarczyk at cpuskarczy@aol.com.

Northside Farmers Market – Saturdays, 10am-1pm

The Northside Farmers' Market, which grew out of an Arts and Lecture Series in 2003, is moving "back home." The market will be held every Saturday 10:00 - 1:00 on the church grounds. People who want to help make brewed coffee and/or staff the table please contact Jim

Converse 330-518-6971. You can also send a text or email to jwconverse@gmail.com, or see me at church.

Build Your Own Theology - Sunday, August 5 and 12 at 9:30am

Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, this classic UU adult education program invites participants to develop their own personal credos: the fundamental religious beliefs, values, and convictions that inform and direct their lives. The series poses five developmental tasks in which participants come to terms with human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics and religious meaning. For more information, contact Korey Gall at koreygall@gmail.com.

Meditation Group - Sunday, August 12 and 26 from 4 to 5pm

All are welcome to attend UUYO's meditation group on August 12 and 26 from 4 to 5pm. If it is your first time attending this group, please come 15 minutes early (3:45 pm) for some basic instruction.

The group will meet in the Youth Room at UUYO on the second and fourth Sunday of the month through the end of March. 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.

Work Party – Saturday, August 18 at 10am

The August work party will be held Saturday, August 18, at 10am. There will be plenty to do, so come on down to join the fun and games. Coffee and cold drinks gratis. Questions – call Bob Seibold at 724-981-4791.

Newcomers' Circle -- Sunday, August 19 at 12:15pm

Each month we hold an informal gathering of Newcomers and recent visitors. We create space to learn a bit more about our church and to consider ways to become involved. The Newcomers' Circles usually last no more than 30 minutes. It is a fun way to get to know other recent visitors and to get your questions answered.

We will meet in the Schweitzer Lounge, on the lower level down the Religious Education hall at 12:15. Grab a snack, bring your children and join us!

Foreign Policy Discussion Group – Sunday, August 26 at 12:30pm

The fourth Sunday this month will be August 26. We will meet at 12:30pm in Schweitzer Lounge. Please feel free, if you wish, to bring an article, question, problem, etc for discussion. All are welcome. Questions – call Bob Seibold at 724-981-4791.

Salem Immigrant Families Support

On June 19th heavily-armed ICE agents conducted a raid at Fresh Mark in Salem as well as at other Fresh Mark locations in Ohio and arrested over 140 Latino workers. 60 were released the next day but 80 are still in detention, awaiting immigration hearings where they hope to be released on bond and reunited with their families. The resources in these communities are completely depleted, there is no income for the foreseeable future, and hundreds of children will likely lose a parent or both parents to deportation.

After a powerful talk given by Tom Beck on the topic of empathy a collection was taken for the Salem families and \$687 was collected. Additional donations of \$255 were received, bringing the total to \$942.

Diana Palardy and a group of women, including Kathy Suarez, went to Salem to find out what the families' immediate needs were. This led to a food and basic supplies distribution to 74 families on June 30th. All but \$8 has now been spent purchasing food and other basic necessities for the families. Additional monies are being raised through a Go Fund Me campaign towards a second distribution which will be held on August. 4th. I am so proud of our church for the monies raised for this humanitarian effort. Thanks to all who donated. Thank you, also, to Diana Shaheen who

The Steel Chalice August 2018 assisted with direct food distribution as well as assisting on June 30th. Diana Palardy deserved a huge thank you for her continued involvement in this ongoing crisis.

In peace, Jeanne Tucker

General Assembly 2018/Kansas City

My visit to Kansas City for General Assembly marks number eight for me, and the second one without the late Jack Brizzi Sr, my best friend. I got a big surprise while attending a workshop when I spotted a Jack lookalike. The workshop was about the "Poor People's Campaign," something that was dear to Jack's heart, as he was always championing social justice projects. Most associate the PPC with the late MLK, but in reality the movement began with an organization called "The National Welfare Rights Mothers" in the late 60's. For those interested in the subject, a good resource is the book, *The Indigenous People's History of the United States*.

Kansas City is a metropolitan city with many attractions, including the Negro Baseball League Museum, the Black Jazz Museum, The World War II Museum, The American Toy Museum, The College Basketball Museum, art museums, and more. The city has a downtown with striking architecture; not the least would be the futuristic looking Kaufmann Center for the Performing Arts. My first night in Kansas City, I was drawn to it like a moth to a flame because of the atmospheric effects of the night sky and lighting. I also captured pictures of the building during the day.

Our denomination president, Susan Frederick-Gray, the first elected woman president of the UUA was opening up her first General Assembly since her election in New Orleans in June of 2017. After congratulating her last year, I told her she had lots of work to do to repair old wounds in our denomination. She gladly accepted the challenge, and you could see the determination in her at the opening ceremony when she stated that all are called to make sure we advance our principles to ensure a fulfilling life for those inside and outside the convention center. Included in her message was a call for us to grow membership in the denomination, something that has stymied past UU presidents, thus the need for the mantra; "All are called."

Susan is small in stature, but she more than pulls her weight in confronting issues like white supremacy, racism, and poverty. I was impressed by her staff, as well. They reflect the diversity we UUs expose, plus there's an emphasis on youthful leadership.

Speaking about the youth, as always, the high school students in attendance managed to make their voices heard on the same issues that affect the adults, and some were recognized for outstanding service to the denomination. There was even a resolution passed giving the youth member on the UUA board, voting status for the first time. In a related matter, another resolution gave DRE's (Directors of Religious Education) automatic delegate status at future General Assemblies.

I was treated to two inspiring speeches by young black women this time. Brittany Packnett, a 37 year old educator and civil rights activist gave the prestigious Ware Lecture, and I will talk more about her later. Mandisa L. Thomas is 41 and was the keynote speaker at the UU Humanist Association's Annual Meeting, and Award Ceremony. Ms. Thomas was named "Religious Humanist of the Year," 2018. She was born in NYC by a single mother, who was not a churchgoer, but her mom did teach her to think for herself, and to question things. She had a fairly normal childhood other than being singled out by relatives and schoolmates about her not attending the black Christian church, or believing in god. She gave facts about black Americans being the most religious of all ethnic groups in the United States, and how the church serves as a center of so many activities in the black community, a type of defacto clearing house for resources and information. If you're not a member, you don't count.

While listening to this intelligent young woman open up about her life as an outsider in her community, it brought back memories of my own. Besides finding a faith community, Unitarian Universalism, that accepts her journey for truth, and respects her questioning mind, she has also reached out to other black nonbelievers by forming the Black Nonbelievers organization, a 501c group with chapters in Atlanta, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Dallas, District of Columbia, Detroit, Louisville, Milwaukee, NYC, Orlando, and Portland. In the Black Nonbelievers brochure, I was struck by one of the mission points which states...Nurture and support nonbelievers in "coming

out" (openly identify). Reminds me of that "All are called" theme.



Hospitality Teams Schedule

Our hospitality teams do so much to make Sunday morning come together: Greet, welcome, provide coffee and treats at coffee hour. If you are interested in joining a hospitality team, please contact Linda Mohn (lmohn2005@yahoo.com).

Please be sure and thank the folks on this month's teams!

Team 4: August 5, 12, and 19

- *Jan Elias – Communicator*
- *Korey Gall - Facilitator*
- *Louisa & Martin Berger*
- *Amelia Brewer*
- *Marguerite Felice*
- *Chesney Gulas*
- *Clayton Henderson*
- *Roger LaFontaine*
- *Tim Malone*
- *Carole McWilson*
- *Eugenia & Al Pierce*
- *Ellen & Lowell Satre*
- *Mary Ellen Shutes*
- *Sharon Stringer*
- *Gloria Wilkin*

Team 1: August 26

- *Lisbet White– Communicator*

- *Jan Grigsby - Facilitator*
- Ginny & Frank Bishop
- Kim Dangol
- Beth Foster
- Monica Hite
- John & Christine Gulgas
- Marty O'Leary
- Mindi & Shawn Raley
- Jim Rogers
- Peg Tomm
- Molly Toth

Pastoral Care

If you have a pastoral care need, or know of someone in our congregation who might have a need, please contact Office Administrator, Heather Best, at office@uuyo.org or 330-746-3067.

Calling All Runners - Sunday, October 21

Join our "UU of Youngstown" team for the Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon! The event is Sunday, October 21 in Columbus, OH and the team will be helping raise funds for children's cancer research and care. For more event information go to www.columbusmarathon.com and to join the UUYOU Team contact Samantha Fitschen at sfits7@gmail.com.

September Newsletter Submissions are Due Friday, August 24 at 9am

Please know that those of you with contributions to the newsletter can send your information as soon as you are ready; no date is too early. Remember to include the start and stop time of your event, if applicable, and the ever-helpful "who, what, where, when, and why" in your description.

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

Board of Trustees 2018

President - Andy Crabb
Vice-President - Jeanne Tucker
Secretary - Mindi Raley
Treasurer - Louisa Berger
John Gulgas
Ralph Malmer
Molly Toth

Committee Chairpersons

Martin Berger, Building and Grounds
Lowell Satre, Endowment
Ralph Malmer, Green Sanctuary
Linda Mohn, Hospitality
Gina Vance, 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

Monday, Tuesday & Friday, 9am-3:30pm
Sunday, 9-11am and 12:30-2:30pm

How to Contact UUYO

Email: office@uuyo.org
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