



# THE STEEL CHALICE

*December 2018*

## December Worship Theme: "Mystery"



**Mystery**

"The job of the artist is always to deepen the mystery."  
Francis Bacon



**Sunday, December 2, 2018**  
**11am Service: "Who Am I"**

Ask three people close to you who you are; you will likely get 3 different and distinct answers. Ask yourself who you are, and you will likely get a fourth answer.

Where do we find our true identity? Come Sunday, and find out.

- Rev. Joseph Boyd - minister
- Becky-Ann Harker - director of religious education
- Ralph Malmer - worship associate
- Marcellene Hawk Mayhall - pianist
- Clare Puskarczyk - chalice lighter

It is wonderful and dreadful that we are compelled to know what we cannot know. It is wonderful because we are continuously moved to see beyond our limitations, to push ourselves to the point of transcendence. It is dreadful because we are bound to time, place, and biology simultaneously. Dread is the root of awe. The great fear and apprehension that accompanies us in a quest of understanding is related to the wonder that we even have the capacity to make the attempt at understanding in the first place. Fear and apprehension are prime indicators that we are about to approach our limits, and enter mystery.

Fear causes us to tread with care, and this is wise. Often we are trained to think of faith as a leap in the dark, but I am a proponent of treading carefully with a candle in hand to light each cautious and trembling step. There is wisdom to entering our living carefully, with care and sensitivity. Mystery is not an esoteric or exoticized experience, but the very instance of our living given adequate attention. Adequate attention is a relative term, but I think it is something that is easily forgotten in the rush and stress of most of our lives.

This month's theme demands adequate attention for it to mean anything at all. Mystery as a term is more often

a barrier, a stopping point. It is easy to shrug off just about everything as being a mystery, and go on with our usual way of thinking and doing. A working definition of mystery is: I don't know fully how this is possible.

It is distressing when things feel difficult and impossible. But too often the possibility itself is taken for granted. Instead of musing on the impossible possibility of our being alive in the first place, we can't help but wonder where we're headed, and what will be in store for us.

This month we will breathe life into these questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? These questions are alive now, and have been since the beginning of humanity. They compel us to answer, to say something for ourselves, though we know in our heart of hearts that our answers will always be proximate, never finished or complete.

Each Christmas Eve we light candles in the dark while we sing "Silent Night" in unison. It is a beautiful thing to behold. A reminder of calm and brightness, and yes, love.

May you feel the warmth of this community in this season. May you let this community hold you steady when shaky. May you let UUYO guide you deeper into mystery.

In faith,  
Rev. Joseph

### **Contacting Rev. Joseph**

If you want to be in touch with Rev. Joseph Boyd, please email him at [jboyd@uuyo.org](mailto:jboyd@uuyo.org).



### **REflections**

The holiday season has officially begun. It is amazing all of the things that we fit into such a short amount of

time - buying/putting up the tree, decorating the tree and the house, baking cookies, buying and wrapping presents, visiting, visiting, and more visiting! It is a mystery how it all gets done. Though, isn't that what the season is all about?

Mystery is also the theme for the month of December, which is fitting, given the nature of the holidays of the season. The miracles and mystery of a virgin birth, of a lasting light despite having no oil. In our UU tradition, we tend to focus on the things we can see and measure and know. What we seem to want to forget is the mystery and the awe of things great and small in the world. This month, in our Religious Education classes, we are going to be mindful and look around our world and notice the mystery in even the most mundane. Look at your hands, and all of the wondrous things they can do - feel and hold and manipulate objects, and look at the wonders of a snowflake. So many things in our natural world is a mystery, even if you can explain its existence, can you really explain its existence? There is so much to be wondrous of!

Have you ever wondered about the mystery of what goes in to making the Religious Education program run? After directing this program for the last 8 years, it feels like we are in a time of transition. At the end of December, we will be losing our Nursery Care worker, Mackenzie, who has been here for the last 4 years. (Let me know if you know anyone who might be interested in this position!) Many of our regularly attending families have become irregular attenders, for various reasons, and we have had several new families begin! It feels like it is time to reimagine what the RE program should be and how to best meet the needs of our families and the church. We will be forming an RE Committee for the first time in a long time to help reimagine the program and to help implement the new ideas that we have. I look forward to seeing what we can come up with!

In the meantime, I wish you all have a safe and happy holiday season. May you take a moment to wonder at the mystery of the season!

--BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education



### **An update from the Stewardship Team**

As of yesterday, our At the Heart of Transformation pledge drive has raised just over \$106,000 in pledges for 2019. This is great news, and we thank everyone who has stepped up to make a pledge of financial support to UUYO so that our life-saving ministry, programming and dynamic presence on the North Side of Youngstown can continue into the next year.

However, we are still \$34,000 shy of our goal of \$140,000.

And \$140,000 is where the goal will stay. It is, quite simply, what it takes to do what we do.

There are a few outstanding pledges remaining--folks we expect to hear from, so that will help somewhat. But it is not likely to get us all the way to the goal.

So what's \$34,000?

It's about \$340/apiece over the course of a year, or just under \$1 a day.

Quite within our reach as a congregation.

After service last week, Sarah Lown approached me and pitched a brilliant idea: a Pledgling Fledgling idea. Sarah said that she will match a new member making a first-time pledge of \$10/mo (\$120/year).

This is an amazing and generous idea.

And we decided to run with it. Do we have any takers? Anyone willing to step up as a first-time pledger? Anyone willing to step up as a matcher?

Please reach out to me (lisbetw@gmail.com) or Brian Konya (brilkon@yahoo.com) if you would like to do this,

or revise your pledge upward, or have any questions about pledging.

Thank you to everyone for your support so that we can have a budget in place by 2019 and guaranteed employment for our minister and staff!

Lisbet White, Brian Konya, Frank Bishop & Ginny Morgan  
the UUYO Stewardship Team

### **Share the Plate**

This program designates half the loose collection at Sunday services to one specific charity per month. UUYO's share the plate recipient for December is Lit Youngstown.

Lit Youngstown is a literary arts nonprofit that started in 2015 to create programming for readers, writers and storytellers. They host a monthly reading featuring local and regional writers, a book discussion, writers circle and a yearly conference. The 2nd annual Winter Writing Camp, February 16, will be a high-energy day of writing activities for people of all ages. The event is free and includes lunch and child care. For more information, please visit [LitYoungstown.org](http://LitYoungstown.org)



### **Poinsettia Orders**

Help make our sanctuary beautiful for Christmas. You can order red poinsettias, which will be used to decorate the church Christmas Eve. After the Christmas Eve service, you can then take them home to enjoy. Print and complete the order blank below and turn your orders and payment in to the church office.

The absolute deadline for orders and payments is Tuesday, December 11. Payment may be made by cash or check (checks payable to the church). Contact

Heather Best at office@uuyo.org or 330-746-3067 with any questions. You may request white or pink plants, but these colors cannot be guaranteed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Size	Price	Quantity
6 ½" pot (1 plant)	\$9.95	
7 ½" pot (2 plants)	\$19.95	
8 ½" pot (3 plants)	\$27.95	
Total		

\_\_\_\_ It is ok to list my name in the order of service as a flower donor.

**Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, December 9 after the service**

On December 9, 2018 there will be a brief congregational meeting right after the service. The Board has recommended a temporary exception to the bylaws to allow Andy Crabb to serve on the Board for two years longer than the six years allowed by our bylaws, and to continue to serve as Board President for those two years.

We have four other Board positions that will be open at the January meeting, and if Andy cannot continue to serve that will make 5 which would be disruptive for the Board. Andy has offered to continue to serve if the congregation approves this bylaws exception. Please join us to share your thoughts and to vote on whether to approve this bylaws exception.

**Holiday Festivity from Equal Exchange**

Now is the time to look over the coffee, tea, and chocolate choices from Equal Exchange which make excellent gifts for your friends and loved ones. Each purchase also helps in several important ways: support

for our Sunday morning Coffee Hour, donations to UUSC for its social service programs, and most important, assistance to small farmers around the globe. Buying with Fair Trade principles helps farmer producers in lands far away to be treated fairly by the global market system.

Our UUYO congregation is among the top 5% of interfaith group sales in Equal Exchange! You can help us continue to support this ongoing effort by visiting the Coffee Cart in Channing Hall on a regular basis. This year make some of your holiday purchases from Equal Exchange.

Ellen Satre

**Northside Farmers' Market – Saturdays from 10am-1pm at 832 Elm St through December**

The Northside Farmers' Market will be held indoors every Saturday from 10:00am to 1:00pm at 832 Elm Street; it will return to UUYO in the Spring. 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](mailto:jwconverse@gmail.com), or see me at church.

**December Events**

- 12/1/18 World AIDS Day Dinner (CH) 6pm
- 12/9/18 Congregational Meeting (SA) after the service
- 12/9/18 Newcomers' Circle (SL) 15 minutes after the service
- 12/9/18 Meditation (YR) 4-5pm (3:45pm if first time)
- 12/15/18 Work Party at 10am
- 12/16/18 Worship Associates Meeting (BR) 12:30pm
- 12/16/18 Cookie Walk during Coffee Hour (CH)
- 12/21/18 Solstice Celebration 7pm in UUYO Courtyard
- 12/23/18 Newsletter submissions due by 9am
- 12/24/18 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (SA) 5-6pm
- 12/30/18 Foreign Policy Discussion Group (SL) 12:30pm

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

**World AIDS Day Dinner**

**Friday, December 1 at 6pm at UUYO**

UUYO is hosting a World AIDS Day dinner co-sponsored by Full Spectrum and UUYO's LGBTQ+ committee. Everyone is invited. Contact Jan Grigsby at [Jgrigsby6@verizon.net](mailto:Jgrigsby6@verizon.net) for more information.



**Newcomers' Circle**

**Sunday, December 9 beginning 15 minutes after congregational meeting**

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!

For more information, contact Karen Lapidus at [kklure@prodigy.net](mailto:kklure@prodigy.net).

**Meditation Group**

**Sunday, December 9 and 23 from 4-5pm**

All are welcome to attend UUYO's meditation group on December 9 and 23 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. 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](mailto:spiritdancer2008@yahoo.com).



**Work Party**

**Saturday, December 15 from 10am-2pm**

The third Saturday this month is December 15. We can finish any remaining work outside or remain inside as dictated by weather. Come on out, folks, as this is a worthy way to take a break from holiday shopping. Questions: Call Bob Seibold, 724-981-4791.



**Women's Alliance – Cookie Walk**

There will be no Women's Alliance meeting in December. However the annual Cookie Walk will be held on December 16 right after the church service. It is requested that cookies, preferably homemade, be brought to the church before the service. They will be purchased during coffee hour. This is a small fundraiser for Women's Alliance and the Church. It is also a great way to sample cookies made by members.

**UUYO Book Group**

The Book Group will not meet in December. Watch the Weekly Update for information on books to be discussed in January.





**Solstice Celebration**

**Friday, December 21 at 7pm in the Courtyard at UUYO**

Pagan cultures across the globe celebrated the winter solstice. It is the day with the shortest amount of daylight in the entire calendar year, and the official beginning of winter. Join us in a long tradition of celebrating this auspicious time with light, ritual, and community.

Please bring a dessert to share if you are able. For more information contact Rev. Joseph at [jboyd@uuyo.org](mailto:jboyd@uuyo.org)



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Monday, December 24th from 5-6pm**

You are invited to UUYO's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service beginning at 5pm on December 24th.

**Foreign Policy Discussion Group**

**Sunday, December 30 at 12:30pm**

Because of the holidays, we will meet on the fifth Sunday, December 30, at 12:30pm in Schweitzer Lounge. As many of the regulars might be away, we will have an informal meeting to discuss anything. Regular fourth Sunday meetings will resume in January to complete October's topic of Russia. Questions – call Bob Seibold, 724-981-4791.



**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 teams!

**Team 4: December 2 and 9**

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

**Team 1: December 16, 23, and 30**

- *Kadey Kimpel - Communicator*
- *Jan Grigsby - Facilitator*
- *Ginny & Frank Bishop*
- *Kim Dangol*
- *Neal Edman*
- *Beth Foster*

- John & Christine Gulgas
- Monica Hite
- Marty O'Leary
- Mindi & Shawn Raley
- Jim Rogers
- Peg Tomm
- Molly Toth
- Mystery Wallis
- Lisbet White

### **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 at [jboyd@uuyo.org](mailto:jboyd@uuyo.org).

### **January Newsletter Submissions are Due Sunday, December 23 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](mailto: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](mailto:jboyd@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**

#### **Board of Trustees 2018**

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

### **Committee Chairpersons**

Martin Berger, Building and Grounds  
Lowell Satre, Endowment  
Ralph Malmer, Green Sanctuary  
Linda Mohn, Hospitality  
Gina Vance, Nominating  
Jan Grigsby, LGBTQ+ Committee  
Sarah Lowry, Share the Plate  
Eugenia Pierce, Women's Alliance  
Sarah Lown, 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 & Friday, 9am-3:30pm  
Sunday, 9-11am and 12:30-2:30pm

### **How to Contact UUYO**

**Email:** [office@uuyo.org](mailto:office@uuyo.org)  
**Mail:** 1105 Elm Street Youngstown. OH 44504  
**Phone:** (330) 746-3067