



THE STEEL CHALICE

February 2019

February Worship Theme: "Trust"

"Have enough courage to trust love one more time and always one more time."
— Maya Angelou



Sunday, February 3, 2019
11am Service: "Trust Your Voice"

Mary Oliver, the poet laureate of Unitarian Universalism, passed away earlier this month at the age of 83. In remembrance of her life and work, we will explore how we can learn to trust our particular creative voice.

Come join us for this multi-generational service.

Rev. Joseph Boyd - Minister
BeckyAnn Harker - Director of Religious Education
Kelsey Myers - Chalice Lighter
Nanette Kaplan Solomon - Pianist



Trust

Mistrust is born of experience. Betrayals and disappointments are as common as the dirt we walk on. Like many of you, I have been following news about the GM plant closing in Lordstown. I have heard stories from hardworking Youngstown citizens who feel betrayed once again by big business. Some workers told me they were so upset, they traded in their personal Chevrolets for another vehicle. It is not the first time something like this has happened in Youngstown, and many fear it will not be the last.

Recently our church has offered presence and support following the shooting of unarmed Matthew Burroughs by two police officers in Niles, OH. Again, this has brought to light a national trend of mistrust for the safety of black and brown persons in relation to police.

We can apply trust in appropriate ways only by understanding the depth of mistrust that we feel and that our community experiences. Trust, like faith, is a word that is used often, but fails to render much meaning without context.

What does it mean to cultivate trust in Youngstown and in the Mahoning Valley? And what/whom do we put our trust in?

On every U.S. dollar is the phrase "In God We Trust." This is an embodiment of the tension between trust and mistrust. A simple, sublime sensibility is branded upon our currency, making a powerful and disturbing

message: Trust can be bought and sold.

There are moments though that cultivate trust. I know many of you joined me at Temple El Emeth following the tragic shooting in a Pittsburgh synagogue. Some of you also joined me for an interfaith Shabbat service at Rodef Sholom honoring the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. During the panel discussion at this Shabbat, members of Rodef Sholom mentioned that they were inspired to re-engage in interfaith relationships after being moved by the turnout at Temple El Emeth. It reminded all the synagogues in Youngstown that there were communities they could put trust in.

I am hopeful that the same may be possible in our church's budding relationship with Second Baptist Church in Warren and citizens in Trumbull county following the rallies for Matthew Burroughs. We are developing a strong reputation as a community of people who can be trusted to show up in times of need and crisis. It moves me deeply that you all have built this reputation of trust over the tireless and resilient decades preceding my tenure.

I put my trust in you, UUYO - not because you are perfect (neither am I) - but because I have gotten to know your heart over the last year and half, and it is a good, strong heart. Your strength and resilience has not hardened you, but made you joyful. You have been able to remain committed and humane without losing your humor and eccentricity. It is an accomplishment I stand in awe of.

As we continue to offer love to the marginalized and the broken-hearted, as we continue to have fun and remind each other of what really matters, we cultivate trust in ourselves and in our community. We develop trust with those among us who have good reason to mistrust.

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.

Bits from the Board

I was initially asked to fulfill the unexpired term of Anita Wesler this past spring. For a variety of reasons, I hesitated (perhaps Clayton's impending graduation, a houseful of young adults, gardening). In August I agreed to serve and finally attended my first board meeting in November! I liked what I saw then and at December's meeting so I decided to run for the two year term. Thanks for voting for me at the annual meeting.

What did I like? The meetings are run with focus and structure but at the same time there is flexibility and a relaxed atmosphere. Although I have served on boards in the past and currently serve on the board on Youngstown Area PFLAG, these had no buildings to maintain and simple budgets to manage.

I looked at my first UUYO budget and was completely lost. I was invited to ask Andy or Louisa to go over the budget report. I was never made to feel unimportant or less valuable because of my inexperience. I did ask questions and felt a glimmer of understanding by December when we looked at the end of year and the projected 2019 budget. I hope by year 2 I will be as comfortable with the budget as I am planting a garden. Both are ever-changing processes.

The biggest surprise for me was how frugally and efficiently we use our money. I know this is in part due to the work of many, many volunteers and the refurbishing/reusing & recycling by our buildings and grounds crew, ably led by Martin Berger.

I am impressed by the energy of Rev. Joseph. He is bringing the church into deeper involvement in the larger community. He is working with not only the YPD but the prison detaining asylum seekers. We are rejoining ACTION and taking a lead in the racial justice through funding allocations to BLUU (Black Lives UU) and hosting the "Let's Talk White Privilege" curriculum through the Social Justice Ministry chaired by Gary Davenport.

I would like to see an expansion of our environmental work and there is a branch of the social

justice committee dealing with environmental justice.

I invite you to find your passion and help move UUYO's principles in to action in the larger community.

The church needs everyone's talents, energy and ideas to thrive and build on our principle to respect the dignity & worth of all. Get involved!

Marguerite Felice



REflections

Trust is February's theme. The RE curriculum for the month covers the topics of Trusting Enough to Come Out of Your Hole, in honor of Groundhog Day, Offering Love and Trust, for Valentine's Day, Trusting Others, and Trusting Ourselves. These are many different ways to look at trust.

For Unitarian Universalists, couldn't we replace the word "trust" with "faith"? We trust, or have faith, that winter will eventually end; we trust, or have faith in the ones we love. We trust, or believe in people, though we get angry and discouraged sometimes, we still believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Isn't this trust the definition of our faith?

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have met with our newly formed RE Committee. I trust that many minds are better than one, and that between all of us, good ideas will emerge. I am looking forward to see what will come from this meeting.

As our youth, last year, were writing their faith statements, I came up with my own. It is very simple- I trust, or have faith, that everything always works out in the end- especially at church. On the days when I worried because teachers couldn't come in, it happened that we had a great lesson in another classroom that the kids could all participate in, or, all of the kids in that

class were also out that day. It never failed- it always worked out.

This should be a lesson in not worrying. Perhaps my trust and faith are not that strong. I know everything will work out, but I still worry about it until it does!

One thing I am not worried about is our OWL program. It is going strong. We have 7 consistent participants. We know we are condensing a year-long program into a once-a-month format, and it is looking like we will have to add one more month to the schedule in order to accommodate all of the information. The program was going to be over in April, it will now be over in May. I have complete trust in our facilitators of this program to do what is necessary to make the program a success.

What do you trust, or have faith in? Talking to your kids about doing things to make sure they are trustworthy helps them live their values. Learning to trust others helps develop their faith.

--BeckyAnn Harker, Director of Religious Education

Share the Plate

This program donates the undesignated collection at Sunday services to one specific charity per month. UUYO's Share the Plate recipient for February is ABC Diamond Girls, Inc.

The ABC Diamond Girls provide programming for adolescent girls in the greater Youngstown area to: build esteem, identify healthy friendship traits, explore cultural diversity and project positive body image. Activities also include healthy eating, nutrition education and community service projects.

February Events

- 2/3/19 Social Justice Ministry Meeting (SL) 12-2pm
- 2/5/19 Let's Talk: White Privilege (SL) 7pm
- 2/10/19 Worship Associates Meeting (BR) 12:30pm
- 2/10/19 UUYO Environmental Justice Team Meeting (SL) 12:30pm
- 2/10/19 Meditation (YR) 4-5pm (3:45 if first time)
- 2/16/19 Work Party at 10am
- 2/17/19 Newcomers' Circle (SL) 12:15pm

2/20/19 Book Group 7:15pm at Melissa Smith's
2/24/19 Foreign Policy Discussion Group (SL) 12:30pm
2/24/19 Meditation (YR) 4-5pm (3:45pm if first time)
3/1/19 Winter FUNN Coffee House (CH) 7pm



Let's Talk: White Privilege
Tuesday, February 5 at 7pm

This six-session class, running from February 5 through March 12, will explore the constructed nature of Whiteness, race, and privilege in the United States. No prior engagement is necessary, though the class will require reading and journaling between sessions. If you have an earnest desire to learn, reflect, and engage with others about dismantling racism, this is a great opportunity. We ask participants to attend all six sessions. We will meet in Schweitzer Lounge. Contact Gary Davenport <gdavenport@uuyo.org> for more information.

Environmental Justice Team Meeting
Sunday, February 10 (SL) 12:30-1:30pm

All Members and Friends of UUYO are welcome and encouraged to attend the 1st meeting of the Environmental Justice Team, a limb of the Social Justice Ministry Team at UUYO, on Sunday February 10, 2019 at 12:30 pm in Schweitzer Lounge. Please come to discuss potential projects and learn more about environmental justice opportunities within the church and the larger community.

At the January meeting of the Social Justice Ministry, it was discussed to create a branch of Justice Ministry to highlight environmental projects. Diana Shaheen, Jeanne Tucker, and Susie Beiersdorfer will co-organize and coordinate this ministry. UUYO is currently involved in numerous environmental justice issues including our Fair Trade Equal Exchange Program, the Northside Farmers Market and others.

See you on February 10th!

Meditation Group
Sunday, February 10 and 24 from 4-5pm

All are welcome to attend UUYO's meditation group on February 10 and 24 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 *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching* by Thich Nhat Hanh. 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, February 16 from 10am-2pm

OK, there was a problem with the January party - snow - so we are due for a good day this month. Martin has a goodly list of tasks that need to be done – indoors. Everybody is welcome, no RSVP needed for this party, just a willingness to help the church and join in the fellowship. Questions - call Bob Seibold, 724-981-4791.



Newcomers' Circle
Sunday, February 17 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!
For more information, contact Karen Lapidus at kklure@prodigy.net.

UUYO Book Group

The **UUYO Book Group** will meet on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 7:15 pm at the home of Melissa Smith to discuss *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

Foreign Policy Discussion Group **Sunday, February 24 at 12:30pm**

We will presumably have finished the topic of Russia during January, so we can start a new topic, perhaps Turkey. Of course, comments, questions, and other topics are always welcome. We will meet in Schweitzer Lounge. Questions - call Bob Seibold, 724-981-4791.

Winter FUUN Coffee House **Friday, March 1 at 7pm in Channing Hall** **For All Ages**

Just in time to cheer us at mid-winter, we'll gather for an evening of music, poetry, coffee, sweets and fellowship.

There will be an open mic, so grab your ukulele and start warming up your pipes. Ask a friend to join you in singing a duet. Polish that poem you've been working on to share with us. Jeff Crouse and other UUYO favorites will offer their musical magic, as well.

Check your Weekly Update email and the Order of Service for more details.

Join us!

For more information, contact Karen Lapidus at kklure@prodigy.net.

Penny Pinchers Consignment Shop

During these long, winter days, why not turn your thoughts to spring. What better time to remove some of those gently worn spring items that you no longer wear from your closet!

Penny Pinchers, a local consignment boutique, is a nonprofit organization operated for the benefit of The Silver Lining Cancer Fund, Inc. They are now accepting spring clothing, through April 1. Bring your items to church and leave them folded in the blue basket or on labelled hangers in the hallway off Channing Hall. Please leave your name so we can thank you. A check for 40% of items sold each season will be given to UUYO, so both individuals and UUYO benefit!

Thank you to all who have generously donated men's and women's clothing in the past. Email questions to Linda Mohn (ljmohn2005@yahoo.com).



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 2: February 3

- Anita Wesler – Communicator
- Marcia & Ralph Malmer – Facilitators
- Sara Egry

- Cheryl & Galen Elser
- Kate Fitzgerald
- Luanna Jacobs
- Cathy Kajut
- Gerard Kelly
- Jon Locketti
- Sarah Lown
- Kelsey Myers
- Linda Scharf
- Jorine Stone
- Trudee Weatherby

Team 3: February 10, 17, and 24

- *Linda Mohn – Communicator*
- *Susie Beiersdorfer – Facilitator*
- *Diana Shaheen – Facilitator*
- Audra & Jason Carlson
- Ashleigh Davis
- Judy Degenova
- Chris Heck & Jessica Myers
- Ron Heinbaugh
- Karen Lapidus
- Sarah Lowry
- Dianna Mason
- Marcellene Hawk Mayhall
- Gene Pusateri & Susan Miracle
- Davin Stilson
- Mary June Tartan

Pastoral Care

If you have a pastoral care need, or know of someone in our congregation who might have a need, please contact Cathy Kajut by phone at 330-774-2168.

March Newsletter Submissions are Due

Tuesday, February 19 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
Secretary - Mindi Raley
Treasurer - Louisa Berger
Tom Beck
Marguerite Felice
Brian Konya
Gene Pusateri

Committee Chairpersons

Martin Berger, Building and Grounds
Lowell Satre, Endowment
Ralph Malmer, Green Sanctuary
Linda Mohn, Hospitality
Jan Grigsby, LGBTQ+ Committee
Sarah Lowry, Share the Plate
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

Mail: 1105 Elm Street Youngstown. OH 44504

Phone: (330) 746-3067