



THE STEEL CHALICE

January 2019

January Worship Theme: "Possibility"

"A thought, even a possibility, can shatter and transform us."
- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche



Sunday, January 6, 2019

11am Service: "Every Generation is a Possibility"

Time capsules are used to preserve current thoughts, hopes, and messages for future generations. Typically they are buried, and stamped with a date to uncover after the participants are elderly or deceased, to pass on a perspective of life to a yet unknown future generation. What would you put in your time capsule?

Join us this Sunday for a multi-generational service.

Rev. Joseph Boyd - minister
Becky-Ann Harker - director of religious education
John Gulgas - worship associate
Nanette Kaplan Solomon - musician



Possibility

The beginning of possibility is not knowing. As we enter the new year, the year 2019, it is common to decide upon resolutions and try mightily to fulfill them. This presupposes a certain level of control over our lives. It presupposes that our living can be dictated solely by our intentions and effort. It is a persistent illusion. The illusion of the "self-made man," a person who by sheer willpower is able to construct a life for themselves, is a persistent and seductive illusion.

Effort is indeed a requirement for a meaningful life. So is intention. But many of us are seduced into thinking that these two elements are all that it takes to create a life of meaning. We can easily forget that the motivating forces in our life and in most lives are unforeseen possibilities. It is understandable that we would downplay this persistent truth. The unforeseen is scary for reasons that are self evident...we cannot control, manage or fully anticipate that which we have never seen. The unforeseen provokes anxiety, fear, and wonderings that can easily turn dark and unpredictable. Many of us are conditioned to assume the worst when we have no or little information to go on. Taken to an extreme, the unforeseen can make us feel like a complete victim of circumstance. It can shatter us.

It is a leap to imagine that unforeseen circumstances that lie in wait for us could be unforeseen possibilities. This leap requires a level of optimism that is difficult to

maintain, especially since the unforeseen may include things we don't like.

In this new year, I think the most important mindset to cultivate is: don't get ahead of ourselves. I mean this in the literal sense. Stay with yourself: with your body, mind, and breath. It is tempting to project our living into a neat and tidy picture of ourselves as we are now, but improved in the future. We may envision ourselves thinner, richer, with less worry, more joy. We may envision our present as merely preparation for a brighter future. But by staying with our experience now, we fulfill our future dreams. We embody a brightness that will not fail us as we embark upon the new year.

Each step we take is already a complete fulfillment of our resolutions. Even if that step seems to take us off track or away from our intentions.

The essence of possibility is not knowing. We know only one thing for sure: the unforeseen will happen. Can we live into this reality in 2019, with dignity and heart? At UUYO, I think we can. We have what it takes to see the unforeseen in its truest form: possibility.

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

The board has had its final meeting for 2018 and is looking forward to 2019 as our stewardship program draws to a close. If you haven't yet made your pledge, it's not too late, just stop by the office for a pledge card. The entire Stewardship team gets a big THANK YOU!! for another excellent campaign. I personally appreciate the way it has been done these past two years and am grateful for the energy and dedication the stewardship team brings to the program.

The cupola installation project took longer to be approved by the zoning than we had hoped, but we have gotten the all clear now and expect to be able to

set the installation date in February. Stay tuned to the weekly update emails for more details as they become available!

The annual congregation meeting is coming up in January. We will be receiving committee reports and voting on new Board members. Please be sure to attend and vote!

We have a busy 2019 on tap, so look around for where you want to get involved and jump right in. Be sure to let Heather know in the office if you want to schedule something on the calendar so that you can be sure you'll have access to the rooms you need for your activities.

Happy New Year to everyone and best wishes to all!

Andy Crabb, Board President



REflections

Happy New Year! Welcome to a new year, full of Possibility! There's a reason why this is the theme for the month. The Soul Matters materials for this month focus on choosing a word for the year. The word you choose will likely shape the year. I have been doing this for myself for the past 12 years. Every year, in January, I get together with a few friends, and we make Vision Boards. The boards contain photographs, usually cut out of magazines, that show things that represent us or that have meaning to us. They usually are related to the word we have chosen for ourselves. I have had words such as Intention, Values, Simplicity, and Connection. I am not quite sure what my word is going to be for this year.

In RE, I had already given this year a word: transition. I have described this in previous newsletters, as it is a transition between a fairly large group of teenagers who don't come around much anymore, to a younger

group from some new families. "Transition" has a kind of neutral connotation. I would prefer a word with more possibility. I'm thinking "transformation." I am putting together an RE committee to help me transform the program and to help me to imagine the possibilities. We will be meeting in January to start thinking and planning the transformation.

One transformation that has taken place is the addition of our own Gwen Carlson as our new Nursery Care worker. Many thanks to her for taking on this position! We are lucky to have her.

As we are in our transformation, I am still looking for people who might be able to share some activities and lessons on the topic of Possibility with our RE kids. Let me know if you'd be interested!

I wish you all a very safe and happy and healthy 2019!

--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. UUYO's share the plate recipient for January is UUJO.

UU Justice Ohio are UU clergy and lay leaders from many different Ohio congregations offering access to training and opportunities for advocacy and action around issues of social equity and equality.

This year, UUJO supporting our first time offering the class "Let's Talk: White Privilege." They will host a gathering this Spring for justice-minded UUs and allies as well as a series of free webinars on various justice-related topics.

Our collection from Share the Plate will pay our congregation's annual membership fee to UUJO.

Welcome New Members!

Our UUYO family is growing. We recently welcomed four new members to our church:

Danna Bozick
Lindsay Sinkovich
Cheryl Elser
Galen Elser

Unitarian Universalist minister Jack Mendelsohn reminds us, "Inscribing your name [in the membership book] does not transform you into an instant or born-again Unitarian Universalist. Our religious way of life is not so much an arriving as a becoming--an ongoing process of thought and life experience. Joining for you may mean fresh steps along a familiar path. It may mean venturing in uncharted territory. In either case, the initiative is yours. You do not sign on someone else's dotted line of spiritual development, and there is no fine print. Your signature is your affirming symbol of commitment to an open-minded, inclusive, reasoned, seasoned, compassionate and contemporary approach to life."

Although we hold the "Belonging to UUYO" session every spring and fall, those who are ready to officially join our community may do so at any time.

Karen Lapidus,
Newcomer Involvement Coordinator

January Events

1/6/19 Social Justice Ministry Meeting (SL) 12-2pm
1/13/19 Annual Meeting (SA) 12:15-1:15pm
1/13/19 Meditation (YR) 4-5pm (3:45 if first time)
1/16/19 Book Group 7:15pm at Melissa Smith's
1/18/19 Interfaith Shabbat Service 6pm, Rodef Sholom
1/19/19 Work Party at 10am
1/20/19 Newcomers' Circle (SL) 12:15pm
1/22/19 Newsletter submissions due by 9am
1/27/19 Foreign Policy Discussion Group (SL) 12:30pm
1/27/19 Meditation (YR) 4-5pm (3:45pm if first time)

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

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 13 (SA) 12:15-1:15pm

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown will take place after church on Sunday, January 13, 2019, in Channing Hall.

As it has done in the past few years, the Board of Trustees will provide a light lunch for everyone following the church service.

All are welcome at the annual meeting and anyone can be involved in discussions; only Active Members, however, may cast a vote on issues brought up during the meeting. Absentee ballots are permitted. The pertinent sections of the UUYO bylaws are below:

Article V. Voting Rights.

Section 1. The right to vote at meetings of the congregation shall be restricted to active members after sixty days of active membership. Each member shall cast one vote on each matter which shall come before the meeting.

Section 2. Active members unable to attend a meeting may cast absentee ballots. Absentee ballots must be presented in writing to the President prior to the beginning of the meeting. The ballot must state the member's position clearly enough to be interpreted at the time of the vote. Absentee ballots count toward establishing the quorum for a meeting.

Meditation Group

Sunday, January 13 and 27 from 4-5pm

All are welcome to attend UUYO's meditation group on January 13 and 27 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

Interfaith Community Shabbat Service

Friday, January 18 at 6pm at Rodef Sholom

UUYO has been invited to attend an interfaith shabbat service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. **Friday, Jan. 18 6 pm at Rodef Sholom.** Rev. Joseph, Rabbi Muller, and other faith leaders will co-lead a service and participate

In a panel discussion reflecting on King's message in our current social and political climate. **Please bring a potluck dish to share in community, and RSVP to Heather Best before Jan. 16: office@uuyo.org**



Work Party

Saturday, January 19 from 10am-2pm

The third Saturday this month is January 19. Martin will likely have a list of items needing attention. If you are not down in Florida, come on down to UUYO and join the party – indoors. Questions: Call Bob Seibold, 724-981-4791.



Newcomers' Circle

Sunday, January 20 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

UUYO Book Group Dates for 2019

January 16, 2019
February 20, 2019
March 20, 2019
April 17, 2019
May 15, 2019
June 19, 2019
July no meeting
August no meeting
September 18, 2019
October 16, 2019
November 20, 2019
December no meeting

The **UUYO Book Group** will meet on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:15 pm at the home of Melissa Smith to discuss *The Road to Wigan Pier* and *Down and Out in Paris and London* by George Orwell.

The February title is *451* by Ray Bradbury.

Foreign Policy Discussion Group Sunday, January 27 at 12:30pm

As the holidays are long over, we can get back to a regular schedule and start a new year in foreign policy to counter the winter doldrums. This time we will discuss Russia in the time of Clinton, Trump, and Putin and thus complete the topic we started in October. 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).

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

Team 1: January 6

- *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

Team 2: January 13, 20, and 27

- *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

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.

February Newsletter Submissions are Due
Tuesday, January 22 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
Marguerite Felice
John Gulgas
Ralph Malmer

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
Mail: 1105 Elm Street Youngstown. OH 44504
Phone: (330) 746-3067