



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

January 1, 2012

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road,
North Royalton

January 1

As Time Slips By

This intergenerational service will use multi media to explore ways to share stories with loved ones who are losing their memory.

Worship Associate: Bruce Melville

January 8

Sometimes We are Held

Hands are an important image in ministry. A hand was extended to welcome me as I was officially ordained in the ministry. A hand was shaken as we made a deal on the purchase of our building. A hand is clasped in prayer, held at the bedside, welcomed to our community. Today we'll celebrate ministry in its many forms, and our hands will release the debt to UUA for the purchase and renovation of our building. It's free at last day!

Worship Associate: Susan Paxson

Community Focus Collection: Association Sunday Excellence in Ministry Initiative

January 15

An Intergenerational Celebration of Mabon

Led by Rebekkah Benner and featuring a prayer tree ritual.

Worship Associate: Michael Comber

January 22

More Questions Than Answers

In this service, I will answer questions from the congregation of things that interest or concern you. Please give me the questions in advance of the service so I can give my best effort toward an answer.

Worship Associate: Jan Futhey

January 29

Theology of the Beatles

The world's most popular pop/rock personalities made an impact on several generations all over the world. Their social statements were influential. Did they also reflect religious perspectives? Sunday Services Committee will offer their own thoughts about the theology and music of the Fab Four.

Worship Associate: Ted Macosko

Cook's Night Out

by Ken Ellis

Cook's Night Out for

January will be at Das Schnitzel Haus. It is authentic German food such as schnitzels, goulash, sauerbraten, spetzels etc. The prices range between \$12 and \$20. We will be meeting at 7pm on Friday, January 27. It is located at 5728 Pearl Rd., Parma. It is just north of Snow Rd.

Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can confirm with the restaurant on an exact number of diners for our reservation.

For those of you who are not familiar with Cook's Night Out, it is a monthly gathering of friends and members of SWUU to take an evening off from cooking and get together for dining out, usually at an interesting restaurant, and enjoy good food and conversation.

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Minister's Musings

More Questions than Answers

During the course of a church year many questions come up for people. What is in our reach? What will our next steps be? Who will be accountable for what? What is the meaning of life? Why do bad things happen to good people? What happened to the anti-gay billboard?

Once a year I like to do a sermon that addresses any questions that may have arisen during the year that are left hanging. On January 22nd, I will reserve the Sunday Service for your questions. I'll research them, give you my opinion, or perhaps generate a whole new list of questions. We are a church that values the search for meaning. What questions do you have in your lives? The life of the church? Is there something "touchy" that you would like to address? Are you confused about the difference between a humanist and an atheist? Do you know what UUJEC stands for? Are Unitarians Christian? Are we a cult?

No question is too silly to ask. I'll do my best to answer it. Get your questions to me by January 19th . Earlier is better. Let's keep the conversation going. As we continue to speak with each other, our interests will become more focused, our vision will sharpen, and our mission to the community will become clear. Maybe we'll even know our purpose in life.

In faith and with love,
Rev. Chris

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January Focus Collection: Excellence in Ministry Initiative Association Sunday

by Rev. Christina Neilson

Every year we collect money for a special initiative through the Unitarian Universalist Association. In the past we have helped to fund things like “Minding the Gap”- funding Young Adult and Campus ministries to fund our connection with our young adults. We have funded “Diversity Initiatives,” which helped to fund placement for African American, transgender, and other ministers with diverse backgrounds in congregational settlements, internships, and scholarships for seminary.

The money collected this year will fund excellence in Ministry. It will be used to create high quality continuing education workshops for ministers, with focus on things like preaching, anti-racism, theology, technology in worship, and a whole range of issues important to congregations. These week-long intensives will be offered every other year to promote in-depth learning and collegial feedback.

Part of the money will also be used to promote excellence in lay ministry. Intensive programs will be offered through seminaries, on line opportunities, leadership school, and training sessions before General Assembly.

This focus collection emphasizes the importance of quality in both our lay and ordained leaders, and offers them an intensive, high quality workshop to improve skills and knowledge. I hope you will give generously to our collection this month.

SWUU Annual Social/Service Auction

by Susan Paxson

The event we have all been waiting for is coming in less than two months and you are going to help make it happen! This year, the auction is scheduled for Saturday, February 25th from 6-9:00 p.m. at the church. Get ready for an event with food, fellowship, and FUNdraising! For those of you who may be new to SWUU, here's how it works. Each member plans an event like a party, a dinner, an outing, a lesson, or any type of gathering for fellow members and friends to attend. Your party can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish. Decide on a date, the number you are willing to accommodate, and the price you wish to charge. Your party can be in your home or here at the church. Just check with Mike Comber to see that the church is available if you choose to have it here. Services can also be offered. If you choose this type of donation, please give specific information about your service , including cost, how many times you are willing to perform it or the number of hours you wish to donate. We also have a Cash and Carry table where folks can bring their hand-made items such as baked goods and crafts. For ideas, see last year's list on the name tag table.

In the next issue of the Forum you will find a sign-up sheet to print out. There will also be sign-up sheets located in a box by the name tags. You can put the completed forms right back in the box or else hand them to Susan at church. If you prefer, you can email the information without a form at all. Please mark your calendars for the auction on February 25th and start brainstorming how you would like to participate. For more information, call or email Susan with questions at 440-888-3615 or swpaxson@cavtel.net.



The Forum



SWUU on the Web

For general information about SWUU, services, sermons, committees and a calendar of events; visit our website at:

www.swuu.org

Receive The Forum Electronically!

If you would like to receive The Forum via email, contact

forum@swuu.org

Join the SWUList

If you would like to join a newsgroup focused on those issues of importance to SWUU, check out the SWUList. Go to

www.SWUU.org and click on SWUList for details.

Sermons

If you would like to receive sermons via email or by mail, contact office@swuu.org

Board Minutes

If you would like to receive the Board Minutes via email, contact office@swuu.org, and put "Board Minutes" in the subject line

Editorial Team

Dan Paxson
Susan Paxson

Would you like to submit something to The Forum?

- ♦ Write as if the reader is new to SWUU
- ♦ Include first and last names, and area codes
- ♦ Include a contact person, phone number, and email if possible
- ♦ Include the city in which the event is located
- ♦ Avoid or explain insider terms and abbreviations
- ♦ Explain Who, What, Where, and When (How and Why are often helpful as well.)
- ♦ Encourage volunteering and participation gently.

Submission guidelines apply to articles and Order of Service announcements. Order of Service announcements may be sent to office@swuu.org by Thursday of each week.

Articles are edited minimally, only to ensure that these guidelines are met.

The Forum is published on the 1st and 15th day of each month
Submissions should be sent to forum@swuu.org 10 days prior to publication.

The Board of Trustees meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM (unless otherwise announced). Everyone is welcome to attend. Minutes from the meetings will be available for members upon request to the Board Secretary.

Do you need to contact someone on the SWUU Staff?

Chris Neilson (Minister)	(440) 877-1686
Adam Miller (President)	(440) 239-0171
Ellen Hansen-Ellis (Music Director)	(440) 234-7034
(Administration)	(440) 877-1686

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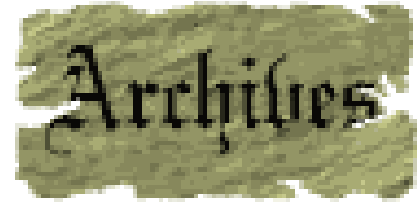
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Looking for Help!

by Emily Heath Wilson

Actually, I am really looking for someone (or two) to take over the role of “church archivist”.

I have been doing the “archiving” since 1991, and I am thinking that it is about time I handed this off to somebody else, hopefully even someone (or two?) who actually knows something about archiving church records and photographs and memorabilia, so that they are maintained and also are available for easy retrieval. I feel pleased to have put some effort into saving all this “stuff”, and that it has been transported to our new facility intact as far as I can tell. But it is getting ahead of me! And time is catching up with me and it is time for a change!!



I would appreciate any and all volunteers, particularly if you have some experience in library science or archiving, to contact me soon! Right now, there is enough sorting to occupy several people for several hours. Once it is set up, it is just a “once-in-a-while” task, which can often be done at home. A lot has changed in the past 20 years – most notably that most of our photographs of church events are being shared digitally, and could now be stored on the church computer and retrieved when needed. Incidentally, I have received many photos (digital and hard copy) in the past year or so, which have not been labeled or in which the people have not been identified. Do you know how impossibly hard it is to identify children in these pictures, five years later???

Life Sharing: Bipolar Spirit With Rev. Katie Norris

by Christina Neilson

Life Sharing, is an activity that is organized by the Social Justice Committee. These events offer us the opportunity to know more about how people deal with particular issues in their lives. In the past, we’ve heard from our veterans who survived war. We heard a story about a person who survived deep depression and a suicide attempt. A lesbian mother shared her story of adopting a child with special needs. We’ve watched movies, attended plays and museums, and in the process, learn something about different life styles and life challenges.

January 14th, Rev. Katie is going to share her experience in living with Bipolar disease. Katie is the part time minister at Olmsted UU church, and a community minister who specializes in Alzheimer’s disease. Many of you have noticed Katie’s blog, where she speaks the uncomfortable truth of the challenges of both Alzheimer’s disease and Bipolar disease.

A potluck dinner will begin at 5:30 pm at the church, and the conversation with Katie will begin at 7:00 pm. I hope you’ll make a special effort to attend this time with her as she shares her life with us.



January 2012

Office drop in hours for Rev. Chris are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10:00—2:00 pm.
 (Unless otherwise noted on the specific day.) Other times by appointment.
 Office 440 877 1686, Home 440 239 9395, Cell 440 263 9285. www.minister@swuu.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
1 As Time Slips By	2	3	4	5 9:30 AM Yoga 12:30 PM Membership Committee 7:30 PM Sunday Services @ The Ellises'	6 9:30 AM First Friday Coffee @ Mug Shotz 7 PM Cozy Con	7 Young Adult Cozy Con— all day		
8 Sometimes We are Held Pot Luck	9 7:00 PM Yoga with Sherry	10 10:00 AM Quilt-Toppers FORUM DEAD-LINE	11 1:00—3:00 PM Study Group at Joan Mathew's	12 9:30 AM Yoga @ Sherry's 7:30 PM Social Justice Mtg.	13 FORUM DEAD-LINE	14 5:30 PM Pot Luck/ Life Sharing Event		
15 An Intergenerational Celebration of Mabon -Rebekkah Benner	16 1:00 PM Heart to Heart— Success and Failure	17	18 1:00—3:00 PM Study Group at Joan Mathew's 7:30 PM Board of Trustees	19 9:30 AM Yoga @ Sherry's 7:30 PM Finance Committee	20 2:00 PM 50+ Women's Group 5:00PM Intergenerational Game Night	21		
22 More Questions than Answers	23 7:00 PM Yoga with Sherry	24	25 1:00—3:00 PM Study Group at Joan Mathew's	26 9:30 AM Yoga @ Sherry's	27 Cooks' Night Out FORUM DEAD-LINE	28 9:00 AM Pastoral Care Workshop @ Cleveland Society 3:30 PM Women's History		
29 Theology of the Beatles -Sunday Services 7:00 PM Yoga with Sherry	30 1:00 PM Heart to Heart— Friendship	31	Week day meetings are held in the church unless otherwise noted.				For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us at swpaxson@cavtel.net , or call 440-888-3615.	

The Forum

Activities and Events

All Year: *Heart to Heart* This covenant group will explore a variety of topics in an intimate small group setting. Each gathering includes a chalice lighting, readings and the sharing of feelings and experiences. Each meeting requires advance preparation, such as reading the chapter in the book, journaling and other activities. Must purchase the book for \$15.00. We will meet weekly, Monday afternoon from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. (Note that this is a change from the prior time.)

Jan 16: *Success and Failure*

Jan 23: *No Class*

Jan 30: *Friendship*

Feb 6: *Doubt*

Feb 13: *Making Peace with Parents*

Feb 20: *Sustainable Living*

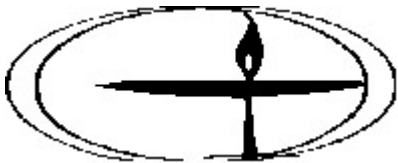
Feb 27: *Endings*

Jan 9-13: Rev. Chris away at Preaching Seminar

Jan 14: Life Sharing with Rev. Katie Norris, 5:30 pm potluck, 7:00 Life sharing.

Jan 23-25: Rev. Chris at Minister's retreat, Salt Fork State Park

**Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church
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North Royalton, Ohio 44133**



We are happy to mail The Forum to anyone who would like to receive it. If you have a blue dot on your mailing label, we haven't heard from you in a while. Please contact us by phone 440 877 1686 or email office@swuu.org – if you'd like to continue to receive The Forum