

The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

July 1, 2010

Sunday Services

~~10:30 AM~~

~~6320 Royalton Road,
North Royalton~~

SUMMER SERVICES

**11:00 @ the church office
in Berea**

**(unless otherwise
specified)**

July 11

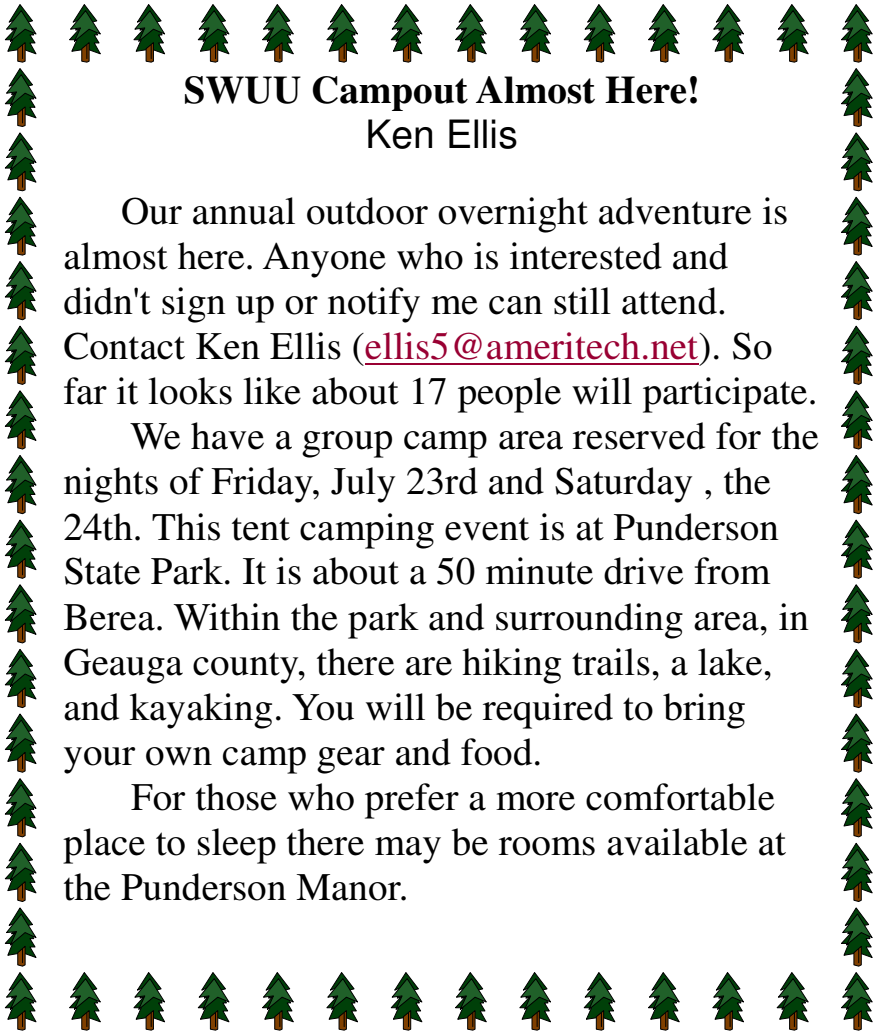
Pierre Gauvin - Real Food

July 18

Danelle Miller - Stories
from Your Childhood:
Bring Your Favorite
Children's Books to Share
and Discuss

July 25

Sue Davis - The Life of
Sally Hemmings



SWUU Campout Almost Here!

Ken Ellis

Our annual outdoor overnight adventure is almost here. Anyone who is interested and didn't sign up or notify me can still attend. Contact Ken Ellis (ellis5@ameritech.net). So far it looks like about 17 people will participate.

We have a group camp area reserved for the nights of Friday, July 23rd and Saturday, the 24th. This tent camping event is at Punderson State Park. It is about a 50 minute drive from Berea. Within the park and surrounding area, in Geauga county, there are hiking trails, a lake, and kayaking. You will be required to bring your own camp gear and food.

For those who prefer a more comfortable place to sleep there may be rooms available at the Punderson Manor.



The Forum

Minister's Musings

Standing in Solidarity

I stand in solidarity with your confusion.

-Gini Courtier, UUA Moderator

This General Assembly was the best ever. For those of you who are already confused, General Assembly is our annual continental church meeting. Each church gets to send delegates to vote on issues, and the great debates are tossed about. But as Liberal Religious people, we often find ourselves in agreement, and nothing really is wrestled. This year we had a great debate.

First there was a debate as we chose our study action issue. No issue received a majority vote, so therefore we had a run off between the two issues receiving the most votes: one on the economy, and one on immigration. The study issue for immigration won, so we will have an opportunity to study the complexities in some detail over the next four years.

The issue that received the most debate was what to do about immigration. In 2012, the General Assembly is scheduled to meet in Arizona, the state that just voted in the most restrictive legislation concerning immigrants to date. It essentially legalizes racial profiling, and Ohio is one of the states considering comparable legislation. The UUA board had proposed that we boycott the 2012 General Assembly, and take a financial hit of over \$600,000 as an association; however, the Arizona ministers drafted a counter resolution to keep General Assembly in Arizona that year, but not to conduct business as usual. They said that we should stand in solidarity with the groups fighting the legislation to make a public witness statement that clearly opposes the new legislation, and the profiling practices in that state.

Standing in solidarity would mean that we conduct the least amount of business as possible. We would have a social justice project that allows us to interact with the various groups. We would perhaps have trips to the border to see the border patrol. We would have speakers that discuss the issue. We would have worship focused around the issue. It would be a more single issue General Assembly than we have had in the past. Now the confusion. There were many good thoughts being expressed, there were motions on the motions, and it was difficult to keep it all straight. Gini Courtier, our moderator, did an excellent job clarifying everything.

It was refreshing to see people of conscience in action, the very best of our congregational polity. That meeting was not business as usual. There were strong emotions being expressed, but people were willing to stay with an issue until the right decision was made. It was a profound experience, and I look forward to our congregation being part of the process.

Start planning now to attend our General Assembly in Pheonix, Arizona, 2012. You will be moved, and proud to be a Unitarian Universalist.

In faith and with love,
Rev. Chris

The Forum

Stuff

by Dan Paxson

The following is a brief update on several areas of church life that I like to periodically report about.

Building:

- ◆ Construction is proceeding smoothly and on schedule (you should definitely visit!).
- ◆ We successfully received a variance on the west lot so that the parking space paving can move forward as envisioned.

Steering Committee: A meeting is planned this week. The agenda is as follows. Anyone can attend (see the calendar).

- ◆ Update on the progress of our loan and grant (if all goes well, the loan will be in place by July 8)
- ◆ Update on progress related to the renovation itself
- ◆ Update on planning for major items from the Aesthetics team (paint, tiles, chairs, carpet, interior signs, etc.)
- ◆ Planning the permanent sign.

Board: I have not received much feedback (2 people to be exact) from the congregation on initiating some critical activities for the upcoming church year. They are relisted below. I encourage members, friends, and newcomers to get involved. Remember, you get from anything what you put into it.

- ◆ Establishing a Buildings & Grounds Committee
- ◆ Re-establishing the Finance Committee
- ◆ Establishing a Children's Religious Education Committee
- ◆ Information Technology (IT) guru
- ◆ Web Pages Update. I have a professional associate who designs such things as a side business. He has quoted us a price of \$400-\$500 (this is very inexpensive). These funds are not currently in our budget, so a targeted donation would be required to use his services. If we received such a donation, we would still need people to provide content material for the effort.

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 office@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) 816-1686
Dan Paxson (President)	(440) 888-3615
Ellen Hansen-Ellis (Music Director)	(440) 234-7034
(Administration)	(440) 816-1686

minister@swuu.org
president@swuu.org
ellen@swuu.org
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The Forum

Room Renovation at THI

by Susan Paxson

Although this year's project did not go as planned, we still want to thank all of the folks who volunteered to help. Our volunteers who actually got to participate in the project were the shoppers, Carol Jagers, Judy White, Lydia Avery and Susan Paxson. Kathy Comber hemmed the curtains and made a cloth and pillow for accents. Our cleaning crew included Lydia and Wil Avery, Ellen and Adrienne Ellis, Phyllis Hall and Susan Paxson. Dan, Susan, and Derek Paxson, Wil and Lydia Avery and Bruce Melville moved the furniture. As usual, Dan and Bruce also installed the blinds and curtain rod. Bruce also repaired the desk drawer which was broken. Ellen helped out by installing a curtain rod for the closet which has no door. In addition, we do not want to forget our donors of furniture, Chris Neilson, Emily Heath Wilson, and Shirley Kowalsky. Judy White donated pots and Sherry donated curtains. Danny and Nancy Peltola donated new towels for the bathroom. Let us not forget Sue Davis and Sara Macosko, who volunteered and went down there only to have to leave because the floor was not finished yet. In addition, Jan and Scott Wehn were prepared to paint and clean but were unavailable this week when we finally did get in the room. Since we didn't do any painting this year, the biggest part of the project was the decorating which Sherry and Carol took on and you can tell they put a lot into this part!

They rearranged furniture, made up the bed, hung pictures and curtains and then went shopping at Steelyard Commons for some items that they felt were missing such as waste paper baskets, toilet paper, place mats, desk organizer, etc. They searched Marshall's, Target, and even Walmart--they were desperate at that point not having found a turquoise bathroom wastebasket for under \$10 yet. Sherry was lucky enough to find some polka dot mugs to match the sheets and some polka dot notecards as well. We also found a metal wall rack for above the toilet to store the extra towels not in use.. Sherry put the rack together with the help of Veronica a ten- year- old girl who was visiting her mother for a week in room 128. She really wanted to help with everything and even wrote a note to the new person who will be moving in introducing herself and telling her how to get to her room if she wanted to come thank her for helping out with the decorating. When you see the pictures Carol took, Veronica was the one who came up with the idea of where to place the wreath. We ended up giving Veronica some of the crackers, water, and a box of kleenex--she was not shy about letting us know what she wanted! She also stowed away in Sherry's car, but Sherry had to draw the line there and send her back inside.

Carol did some final searching for more finishing touches today both around her house and at TJ Maxx. She bought a polka dot bathroom drinking glass and some turquoise storage baskets to sit on top of the "kitchen cabinet." From home she filled an old decorative fish bowl with potporri and filled a glass container with decorative soaps. She also decided that her silk ivy in the brass planter was the perfect thing to sit on top of the closet and trail down into the living area. She also had quite a few toiletries to add to the medicine cabinet that Sherry so cleverly made presentable by covering with TURQUOISE DUCT TAPE! Yes, Carol took a picture which will hopefully appear in the next issue in the forum in August. The room is now totally complete.

As usual, we don't want to forget to thank everyone for their financial donations which made this project possible. In addition to the peices Carol and Sherry bought, we also bought new sheets and other bed linens, blinds, curtain rods, lamps, tiles for the floor. We are hoping to continue to participate in this project but we want to discuss it thoroughly with the people at THI to make sure we don't have the scheduling difficulties we ran into this year. Jane Amata, the volunteer coordinator, was very sincere in her apologies to us and wanted us to pass that along to all of the volunteers.

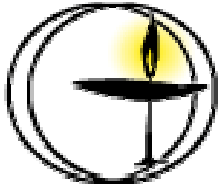
The Forum

Walking Group 2010 by Sue Davis

Summer is here which means it's time to revive the SWUU walking group. We will meet on Saturday morning, July 10, at 10 a.m. in the Berea municipal parking lot behind the church office. We will plan future walks on dates agreed upon by the participants. I will inform others of the dates of the hikes and where we will meet via the swuulist. If you are not on swuulist and wish to be informed of future hikes, please contact Sue Davis at suedavis@cox.net or 216-524-1640. Cancellations because of inclement weather will also be announced on the swuulist. Please consider joining us on July 10. All adults, children, and well behaved dogs are welcome. Please contact Sue Davis if you have any questions.

Lake View Cemetery by Sue Davis

A visit to Lake View Cemetery may sound a little depressing, but it isn't. Lake View Cemetery was founded in 1869 and was modeled after the garden cemeteries of Victorian era England and France. Points of interest in the cemetery include the Garfield Monument, Wade Chapel which has a stained glass window designed by Louis Tiffany, and the Rockefeller Monument. Bruce Melville, SWUU member and expert of so much, plans to lead a group of us on a tour of the cemetery. We will make it an all day adventure on Tuesday, July 20. We will meet at 9 at a central location to car pool and will spend the morning at the cemetery. We will lunch at Tommy's on Coventry in Cleveland Heights. After lunch we may decide to spend a little time in the unique stores on Coventry. Then we will drive to another Cleveland neighborhood for a walking tour (Shaker Square, Forest Hills, or Cedar-Fairmount are being considered). For more information, please contact Sue Davis at suedavis@cox.net or 216-524-1640. Details on meeting for this excursion will be posted on the swuulist. If you are not on swuulist and wish to be informed, please contact Sue Davis.



July 2010

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 440 816 1686, Home 440 239 9395, Cell 440 263 9285. www.minister@swuu.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a **</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Week day meetings are held in the church office, 50 Front Street (Rear) unless otherwise noted.</p> </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us at swpaxson@cavtel.net, or call 440-888-3615.</p> </div>		1	3
					2 9:30 PM First Friday Coffee at SW General Hospital	10:00 AM Walking Group Meet behind Church office
4 Independence Day—No summer service today	5 FORUM DEADLINE	6	7 1:00—3:00 PM Study Group at Mathews— <i>Road to Heaven - Encounters with Chinese Hermits</i>	8 7:30 PM Steering Committee meeting	9	10 10AM Walking Group Meet behind Church office
11 Summer Service 11AM @ church office led by Pierre Gauvin-Real Food	12	13	14 1:00—3:00 PM Study Group @ Mathews' <hr/> 7:30PM Board Meeting	15 6:00 PM Membership Pot Luck at The Paxsons' home	16 2:00 PM 50+ Women's Group	17
18 Summer Service 11AM @ church office Led by Danelle Miller-Childhood Stories	19	20 9:00 AM Lakeview Cemetary Trip led by Bruce Melville	21 1:00—3:00 PM Study Group @ Mathews' <i>Road to Heaven - Encounters with</i>	22	23 SWUU Campout at Punderson State Park	24 SWUU Camp <hr/> 3:30 PM Women's History and dinner out
25 Summer Service 11AM @ church office Led by Sue Davis—Life of Sally Hem-	26 FORUM DEADLINE	27	28 1:00—3:00 PM Study Group @ Mathews'	29	30	31

The Forum

North Royalton Festival-August 20-22

by Susan Paxson

The Membership Committee is planning to be a part of the annual summer celebration in North Royalton as a way to let the community get to know us a little better. It is going to be so important to get the word out that we are here so we can attract people who need us but might not even know it! The festival is supported by many local businesses and organizations and includes food, rides, and information tables. We are going to have a table with display boards and some small items to give away. One item which was extremely popular when we did this at the zoo was a copy of the UU World magazine. We will put a SWUU sticker on each one with our address, phone and website. We are also planning to march in the parade which takes place on Sunday at 2:00. We hope to have a big group for this including our younger members!

If you would like to get more involved in the organizing of our participation in this event, come to a pot luck dinner at Susan's house at 6:00 on Thursday, July 15th. After we eat, we are going to work on our display boards and think more about how we can get involved in the parade on Sunday. If you have some of your copies of The World that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the church office or contact Susan at swpaxson@cavtel.net.

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church
P.O. Box 191
Berea, OH 44017



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 440 816 1686 or email office@swuu.org – if you'd like to continue to receive The Forum