



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

June 1, 2017

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton

June 4

Reason in the Face of Injustice: A Unitarian Universalist Response

As the theme for June here at South West Unitarian Universalist Church is “reason”, Rev Chris Long will be joining us to explore what our deep theological and founding belief in the use of reason may mean to engage the spiritual/religious questions of today, especially in a country and world where “facts”, “science” and the belief of serving each other, nature and the planet are in great peril. What do the forebears of our theological heritage and our contemporary Principles and Sources, grounded in the use reason, provide us that might help us as we navigate our lives as Unitarian Universalist, especially now?

-Led by Rev. Chris Long

Worship Associate: Mark Jackson

Focus Collection: Esperanza



June 11

Questions and Flowers

We are a people who welcome questions and who run our beliefs through the fire of our thoughts and experiences. On this day we explore reason and reverence and enjoy our annual Flower Ceremony. Bring a flower to share.

Annual Congregational Meeting to follow the service.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Ted Macosko

June 18

Discovering Truth

From Buddha to the humanists among us, we delve into the history of using our ability to reason to make sense of our world and our religious beliefs. Come join us on the path of discovery.

Ellen Hansen-Ellis’ last Sunday as our Music Director, a pot-luck celebration will follow the service.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

June 25

Summer Solstice Celebration

Join Eve Dilport, Bruce Melville and Leslie VanKuren in exploring three different perspectives of the Summer Solstice. In addition, there will be a drumming, ritualistic prayer and chants that coincide with this Pagan Holiday which marks the longest day of the year.

-Led by Leslie VanKuren, Eve Dilport, and Bruce Melville

The Forum

Message from your Minister

Reason

*“We hold reason and conscience to be final authorities
in matters of religious belief.”*

-1887 Unitarian Western Conference

As I write this, I will soon be leaving for two weeks of travel with my family. Just about the perfect way to start the summer! I invite all of you to find ways, large and small to enter into the spirit of summer. Let us relax into the warmth and color of the season, taking respites as we can to find enjoyment in these times.

Our theme for the month is Reason. In our faith tradition, reason and reverence have always gone hand in hand. Science and religion have both been seen as ways to seek the truth while exploring the world. In this church we unite our head with our heart, integrating our best thinking with our experiences of awe and wonder. We join a long line of religious thinkers going back hundreds of years to make sense of the majesty of the universe.

Let this be a solid touchstone for us in these times when truth has been cast on the waves of politics. Our ability to stay calm, to think things through, to look for the sources behind the information that is flooding our inboxes or TV's will help us to find firmer footing. What are the questions that you have been grappling with lately? What's been on your mind, spiritually speaking? Let's explore together.

Let's make some time to share our enjoyment of summer and our questions together. Call me. Know that you are important and that what is going on in your life matters.

If reasoning things out by yourself isn't enough, let's find some time together.

Know that you are loved,

Rev. Kristen

minister@swuu.org

Big News!

The Music Director Transition Team is pleased to announce that we have hired Sarah Barford to be our next Music Director. She will begin mid June and play for our service on June 25th. Sarah is a UU, and a piano teacher who also plays the oboe. She is very excited to be joining SouthWest UU Church.

The Forum

Focus Collection for June:

Esperanza

by Mark Jackson, Social Justice Committee

Our SWUU Youth Group chose the recipient of the June focus collection. Esperanza is a non-profit organization in Cleveland dedicated to improving the lives of Hispanic youth. They have been actively engaged in promoting educational success since 1983. Their Mission Statement reads, "The mission of Esperanza is to improve the academic achievement of Hispanics in Greater Cleveland by supporting students to graduate high school and promoting post-secondary educational attainment." They accomplish this goal through five targeted areas including motivating academic achievement, enhancing the quality of economic and community life, promoting continuity of community through leadership, offering enriched educational services and opportunities and providing scholarship assistance. Their many programs include a STEAM summer camp, a mentoring / tutoring program, ACT preparation, a college-readiness mentor program, leadership opportunities and a family engagement program. More information is available on their website: <http://www.esperanzainc.org/>.

Important Announcement From the Board

by Phyllis Hall and Sherry Spencer, Board of Trustees

The SWUU Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2017 immediately following the Worship Service. Please plan to attend. Friends and Members are encouraged to stay and the floor is open to all for input and discussion. Voting itself, however, is reserved for those who have officially signed the Membership Book. Grab some snacks and reconvene at 11:45 in the sanctuary.

The meeting agenda will be as follows:

- Verification of a quorum
- Minister's report
- Board president's report
- Treasurer's report and vote on 2017-2018 budget
- Vote on amended By-laws*
- Nominating committee report and election of Board members and officers

*A link to the proposed By-law changes was included in recent Thursday e-blasts. A hard copy is posted at church.

Urban Hope

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

Thanks to everyone for the generous financial donations to Urban Hope for the April Focus collection and the food donations for Healthy Snacks delivered on May 21. Carol & Jim Jagers and Mary & Tom Brooks took the food to the Storefront and helped serve. There was a good crowd, and they were very appreciative. Carol spent some time visiting with several children. It is extra special when there is time to chat with the guests, and especially to give children some TLC. Sunday, May 28 is the Urban Hope Picnic at the Community Gardens on Franklin. Debby, Scott and I went to cook hotdogs and help set up and serve. We do not ask for donations for this event, as our financial contribution helps to buy the food and supplies. We see our money working for our neighbors. Our next Sunday visit to the storefront is Sunday, June 11, and we will be requesting healthy snacks for that day. Please sign up on the poster in the lobby. Thanks for your continued support.

The Forum

Women in History: Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines by Sue Davis

The women in history study group began because of our desire to learn more about our foremothers. We recognize our debt to the many, largely unknown women who worked and suffered in their attempts to achieve equality for all women. Their efforts have made our lives easier. We read books to share their stories.

We read a book as a group, so no outside reading or book purchase is necessary. On Saturday, July 1, we will be starting a new book: "America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines" by Gail Collins. To quote the book jacket, the author "charts a journey that shows how women lived, what they cared about, and how they felt about marriage, sex, and work. All the famous women are here, but they share the stage with the ordinary women of every era who survived their roles as dolls, drudges, helpmates."

We meet the first Saturday of each month at 3:30. We're not meeting in June but will start our new book on July 1. Many of us go out to dinner after the meeting. We would be happy to welcome new people to our group.

SWUU Summer Campout in July by Ken Ellis

This summer's outdoor adventure will be at Mosquito Lake State Park. Don't let the name discourage you; this park has 2,483 acres and a 4 mile long lake. There are mature woodlands, many miles of trails, marshes, a wildlife management area, and many summer wildflowers. There are foxes, otters, muskrats, beavers, eagles, and more. The lake has a beach and there is a playground and a butterfly garden.

The group camp can accommodate up to 40 campers and is within 300 feet of the lake, showers, and flush toilets. We will have a fire ring and picnic tables. Campers are all required to bring their own tents, camp gear, and food. Pets are permitted.

This annual event is an outdoor, tent camping, experience. It is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about the outdoors and the sounds of nature at night. We cook over a fire pit and enjoy nature hikes. Evenings are spent relaxing under the star-filled sky while we have sing-alongs, make s'mores, and tell scary stories. The atmosphere is always pleasant and the laughter reflects the fun-filled camp camaraderie.

This will be for two nights: Friday, July 7 and Saturday, July 8. You have the option of camping one or two nights. The park is a little over an hours drive from North Royalton. The price per camper will depend on how many. It should be between \$4 and \$10/camper. For those who would like to attend, but don't own a tent, there are yurts that can be rented. You would need to contact the park and reserve this soon.

Please contact Ken Ellis with any questions: 440-234-7034

kellismtn@gmail.com.

The Forum



SWUU on the Web

For general information about SWUU, services, sermons, committees and the most up-to-date 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 SWUUList

If you would like to join a newsgroup focused on those issues of importance to SWUU, check out the SWUUList. Go to www.SWUU.org and click on SWUUList 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 morning of each week.

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

The Forum is published on the 1st day of each month. Submissions should be sent to forum@swuu.org by the dates listed in the calendar of each issue.

The Board of Trustees meets once per month. Check the calendar in each Forum for the specific date. 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?

Rev. Kristen Rohm (Minister)
Sherry Spencer (President)
Ellen Hansen-Ellis (Music Director)
Kathy Villwock (Office Assistant)
Jennifer Papp (Director of Religious Education)

minister@swuu.org
president@swuu.org
ellen@swuu.org
office@swuu.org
dre@swuu.org

The Forum

Pot Luck to Celebrate and Say Thank You to Ellen by Sherry Spencer, Board President

When Ellen Hansen-Ellis, our Music and Choral Director, was asked "what can SWUU do to celebrate you?" Ellen responded, "Let's have a Pot Luck!"

After 29+ years of dedicated and devoted service to SWUU, we want to say "thank you, you have always gone above and beyond!" Come join in the celebration of thanks on **Sunday, June 18th**, following the Sunday service at 11:30AM. Bring a dish to share and BYOP...(Bring Your Own Place setting)

You are invited to join in the fun of "showering Ellen with cards of thanks". Bring the perfect "Ellen card" or maybe come up with "the funniest card". Let this challenge commence. We hope to see you there!

Welcome to our New Members by Susan Paxson, Membership

Last month, on May 21st, SWUU held a new member joining ceremony during the service to officially welcome **Sharon Stadul, Kathleen, Jackson, Anastasia Berosh, and Beverly Stockard** into our community. We are so pleased that they felt ready to take the next step and join our congregation. Look for their pictures on the new member board in the lobby and introduce yourself if you have not had a chance to meet them.

Rummage Sale June 22-24 Gay Cady, Rummage Sale Coordinator

Our Rummage Sale will be held on Thursday, June 22 from 9am to 6pm,, Friday June 23 from 9 to 6 pm, and Saturday June 24 from 9 to 2 pm. There will be several times to bring in your items and place them in the first classroom on the right in Fellowship Hall downstairs. Please label your items with a suggested price.

Please bring in your goods during these times:

Sunday, June 11, after service until 1:00 pm

Monday, June 12, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Wednesday, June 14, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Friday, June 16, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Sunday, June 18, after service until 1:00 pm

Monday, June 19, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

I will need help on:

June 20, from 1pm to 4pm to help organize and set up.

June 21, from 9 to 3, for set up

June 22, from 8:30 to 1 and 1 to 6, for sales

June 23, from 8:30 to 1 and 1 to 6, for sales

June 24, from 8:30 to 2, for sales, pack up and close.

Please sign up on the poster at the table outside the sanctuary. if you can help. Thanks so much! Here's hoping for a successful fundraiser event!

The Forum

GCC NEWS: Delegate Meeting Report

by Christine Wolf

NOT ALL IN

When the the poorly publicized news broke in December 2016 of a plan to to use 160 million dollars of county and city funds to upgrade Quicken Loans Arena, Greater Cleveland Congregations sought answers to these questions. How is a cash-strapped city and county able to subsidize this deal when efforts to fund crisis level needs dealing with the opioid crisis, unemployment, gun violence, inadequate mental health services, and deteriorating neighborhoods are denied. Why has the deal been fast tracked as “emergency legislation” without full public disclosure. Many attempts were made to meet with city and county officials, and the CAVS organization to discuss ways to benefit all of Cleveland, not just the Gateway District. Since January, GCC and its allies have not only attended en masse, but fully participated in city and county council meetings, conducted an action that included invitations to the mayor and council members, and disseminated an ever increasing amount of information highlighting the blatant unfairness of not only the deal itself, but the way it was brokered. These efforts did make a difference, but not enough to gain the necessary city and county council votes to stop passage of this legislation.

So, it was not unexpected when a coalition led by Greater Cleveland Congregations including the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, the Service Employees International Union 1199, the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees Ohio Council 8, and the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 268 began a petition signing campaign on the city's 88 million dollar portion on the deal. According to the city charter, 6,000 signatures were required within 30 days to force a referendum. The result: 20,000+ signatures collected in 26 days!

By now, you have probably already heard that City Council President Kevin Kelley shockingly rejected these petitions upon presentation at city hall on Monday, May 22nd. When Rev. Richard Gibson and Rev. Jawanza Colvin refused to leave city hall and were prepared to go to jail unless the petitions were accepted, the city took “custody” of the signatures with no commitment to act on them.

What happened next was revealed in a press release on May 26th which took the form of a “taxpayer-demand” letter from GCC attorneys representing petitioners demanding that the petition be accepted in accordance with the law. Important to remember as GCC continues this effort is what Rev. Colvin has repeatedly stated, “We've already won!” The efforts of the past months have brought people of Cleveland together for a common purpose: a community benefits agreement that does not exclude a Q renovation and benefits all of Cleveland. This could begin a change in the way business is done in Cleveland.

LISTEN,ACT,WIN

The Education Team, organized by Kalilah Worley, was recognized for many victories, all cited at the third Listen-Act-Win Action held at JFK High School on May 16th. Schools in need worked and organized to receive new computers, chromebooks, a safe street entrance to a school, the beginning efforts to establish after school and summer school programming, also crucially needed trauma teams and centers. Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Eric Gordon has participated in this GCC Education Campaign and continues to make commitments to improve the lives of Cleveland's students.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The criminal justice team has allied it's efforts to the NotAllIn Campaign for now since the needs are mutual. The action held last November resulted in a pledge from Judge Russo for the county to invest \$45,000 toward review and foundation work necessary to the establishment of mental health and addiction crisis centers. Cities such as San Antonio and Miami, that have already have similar facilities, have been able to actually close prisons and save tens of millions of dollars. The benefits to those in need of such places is immeasurable.

This meeting ended as all others, with a renewed spirit of hope and a prayer.

The Forum

Religious Exploration Update by Jenni Papp, DRE

Blessing of the Animals on June 4th in Religious Exploration

During our last Chalice Circle of the church year we will have a Blessing of the Animals. As UUs we recognize the important connection we have with all living things and we will take this opportunity to celebrate that. All children and youth are invited to bring their animal to church for our service downstairs. They may instead bring a photo if they would like. A few things to note so that this is a good experience for our animal friends, the children and parents, and the congregation.

- All of our pets should be taken directly downstairs when you arrive to church. Though we love them dearly as members of our families, not everyone wants to be around your baby so we will be downstairs only.
- Please be sure that you have them on a leash or in an appropriate carrier.
- If they need to be walked please be sure to clean up any deposits they may leave outside.
- The children and youth will not attend the first part of worship this day. We will have our worship downstairs together.

Our Whole Lives

SWUU is hosting the Central East Region's OWL facilitator training on June 30 to July 2. Our church is in a great location with good access for many folks in the OMD area to attend. As hosts we were able to eliminate half of our training costs and all of our two trainee's travel expenses.

Your help is needed for us to host this event successfully.

- The hospitality committee is coordinating the meals for the weekend. Please contact Gay Cady to find out how you can help with any of the 6 meals that weekend.
- If you live fairly close to the church and are interested in offering overnight hospitality to any of the trainees coming from out of town please let Jenni Papp know soon at dre@swuu.org. This can help another congregation save a little on their costs for this training. All of their meals will be at the church so that will not be a responsibility. Just a comfortable, private room to stay.

OWL, as it is fondly known, is a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula that was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. SouthWest has offered some of the age groups in the past and we will continue with that this fall as we offer OWL for grades 7 to 9. If you are interested in learning more about it you can find lots of information at <http://www.uua.org/re/owl>

Our volunteer facilitators for this amazing curriculum will be Leslie VanKuren, Amy Jackson, and Adrienne Ellis. Leslie was a facilitator a few years ago and Amy and Adrienne will be trained as facilitators this month.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



The Forum

Religious Exploration Update (Continued)

by Jenni Papp, DRE

Summer Religious Exploration Kicks Off June 18th: Adult Volunteers Needed.

As SWUU begins its third summer offering programming for our young UUs we should mark ourselves lucky that they like us and each other so much that they continue to join together in learning and fellowship in the summer months. Many churches are not so lucky and their summer attendance is often low for the children and youth attendance is non-existent as families take the summer “off”. This is part of our commitment to being a year-round church.

In the summer we like to give our regular RE leaders a break and give an opportunity for our children to meet and interact with other adults in the congregation.

Please look for information and sign-ups on the RE table in the entrance way of the church or contact Director of Religious Education, Jenni Papp at dre@swuu.org to sign up to hang out with the “cool” kids this summer.

Religious Exploration Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, June 11th, the worship will include recognition of all of the adults who have been leaders in the Religious Exploration program at SWUU in the past year. If you are one of those leaders, we all hope you are able to attend that Sunday. If you are not, please join me as we recognize and thank them for all they have done this year. To volunteer contact our Director of Religious Education, Jenni Papp, dre@swuu.org



#swuurocks

You may have noticed a pile of painted rocks on the table as you enter the church. The children in RE spent some time learning about the importance of spontaneous acts of kindness and about #thekindnessrocksproject. Please feel free to take a rock and then find a place to put it out in the world so that another person may be pleasantly surprised when they find it. If you would like to paint a rock and contribute it to the pile, please do! There is information on how to do that in the handout next to the rocks.



June 2017

To contact the minister, Rev. Kristen Rohm, or make an appointment to see her, call or email: 440 877-1686, or minister@swuu.org

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Week day meetings are held at the church unless marked with an *. </div> | | | | | | |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us at susan@paxson.us, or call 440-888-3615. </div> | | | | | | |
| <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by **. </div> | | | | | | |
| 4 Reason in the Face of Injustice: A UU Response -Rev. Chris Long | 5 1:30 PM Meditation | 6 | 7 9:30 AM Wednesday Coffee 1:00-3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group 7:30 PM Worship Team | 8 4:00 PM Social Justice | 9 | 10 8:00 AM Adopt-a-Highway |
| 11 Questions and Flowers -Rev. Kristen Rohm 11:45 AM Annual Meeting Rummage Sale Drop-off | 12 1:30 PM Meditation 1:30-3:30 PM Rummage Sale Drop-off | 13 7:00 PM Board Mtg | 14 1:00-3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group Upholstery cleaning 2:00-4:00 PM Drop-off | 15 7:00 PM Earth Alliance 6:30 Cooks' Nite Out* | 16 2:00 PM 50+ Women's Group 2:00-4:00 PM Drop-off | 17 8:00 AM Adopt-a-Highway-rain date |
| 18 Discovering Truth Rev. Kristen Rohm 11:45 Pot Luck for Ellen Rummage Sale Drop-off | 19 1:30 PM Meditation 1:30-3:30 PM Rummage Sale Drop-off | 20 Move chairs for Cleaning 1:00-4:00 PM Rummage Sale Set-up | 21 1:00 PM Spiritual Book Group Carpet Cleaning 9:00-3:00 PM Rummage Sale Set-up | 22 Carpet drying time 8:30-6:00 SWUU Rummage Sale 6:30 Cooks' Nite Out* | 23 8:30-6:00 SWUU Rummage Sale 7:00 PM Men's Group | 24 8:00-2:00 SWUU Rummage Sale 7:00 PM Youth Group FORUM DEAD-LINE |
| 25 Summer Solstice Service Leslie, Bruce, and Eve 12 noon Memory Support | 26 1:30 PM Meditation | 27 | 28 1:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @Mathews | 29 | 30 3:00PM - 10:00 PM OWL Training | |

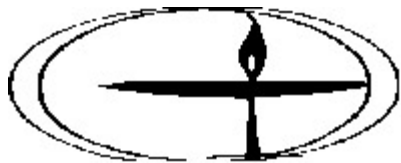
The Forum

Sharing and Caring

Susan Paxson would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, visits, dog walks, and rides to appointments after my recent bike accident. It really feels good to be in such a supportive community. I am excited that I have been given permission to walk as much as I want but holding a leash is still a challenge so walking buddies are welcome!

** send your joys and sorrows to forum@swuu.org for inclusion in the next issue*

**Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church
6320 Royalton Road
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