

# The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

[www.swuu.org](http://www.swuu.org)

January 1, 2018

## Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton



**January 7**

*Fire and Water*

We begin the New Year, as has become our tradition, with a Burning Bowl ritual. We will let go of something from the past to make space for what we'd like more of as the year unfolds.

Join us for this interactive, intergenerational service.

-Led by Rev Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Mike Gold

Focus Collection: Habitat for Humanity

**January 14**

*Balance and Restorative Justice*

Our exploration of Justice begins with some questions about how justice might be utilized to restore relationship and help us to stay in balance. It's also the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda, so come and see how it all fits together!

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Ted Macosko

**January 21**

*When is Enough Enough?*

One way to explore justice is through the lens of how much do we need and how much do we deserve. Come be together as we ponder with economic inequality continuing to grow, when is enough ever enough?

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Ken Ellis

**January 28**

*Hope for a Hurting World: Seeking a Path to Justice for the Earth*

Reflections on the condition of our world; causes, solutions, and reasons for hope.

-Led by Ellen Hansen-Ellis, SWUU member and Earth Alliance co-chair

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

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## Message from your Minister

### *Justice*

*“I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways...from what I see, I am sure it bends towards justice.”*

- Rev. Theodore Parker

*“Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.”*

- Cornel West

Welcome to 2018, it's the start of another year, how amazing is that? I hope that you each found some moments of peace during the winter holiday season, some times of respite in the quiet dark of the days around Solstice and some sparks of hope from the celebrations of Christmas. As we settle in for the long months of winter, please consider how do you take care of yourself? What do we enjoy most about the cold times? Is it the snowflakes dancing in the wind, heart warming connections with family and friends, the bare branches against the sky, the pleasures of soup and crackling fires, the subtle beauty of rivers and fields in repose. Please find something that moves you and let it fill and nourish you.

Our theme this month is Justice, which is a rich and riveting call. Your Worship team is very aware of our desire to balance the political and social aspects of justice with the spiritual grounding of worship. And truly, all work for justice, all activism is more powerful and more effective when it is grounded in our spiritual practice and arises out of our deep faith and values.

What justice issues most speak to you? We've been doing good anti-racism work in our Conversations this fall where we have explored white privilege and white fragility as aspects of white supremacy. We have shared some of our individual stories of how we first learned about our identity, whether that was as a person of color or a white person. We will be reading the UUA Common Read, the book Centering – reflections of UU Ministers of Color. Please join us on February 4th for a Conversation about this book.

We have been running a support group for PFLAG the past 19 months to be a place of welcome and support to the LGBTQ Community. Due to low attendance, we have set that down for now though we continue to explore how best to be of support. We continue our consistent community building work of providing food and fellowship at Urban Hope on Sunday afternoons. We also continue to be engaged with GCC as it re-organizes after the rough and tumble Q Campaign. Our Earth Alliance continues to encourage us with ways to advocate for our planet. My hope is that each of us finds one or two ways to engage with justice here at SWUU and in the wider world.

There are times in our lives when all of our energy is engaged in returning to health and stability. If this is true for you, let's be in conversation.

Know that you are loved,  
Rev. Kristen

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## **Important Vote Announcement**

Please plan to attend the mid-year SWUU State of the Church Meeting on Sunday, January 21 following the Worship Service. Members will be asked to vote on approval of our **SWUU Church Endowment Investment and Distribution Policy**. In order for the policy to go into effect, **67% of SWUU members must vote to approve**. If you haven't yet read the policy, you may request a copy from Board Secretary, Phyllis Hall.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, it is critical that you sign a proxy statement naming another member to cast your vote. Proxy statements will be available at church Sun., Jan. 7 and Sun., Jan. 14.

## **Board Happenings**

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

I'm not going to tell you anything about board activities this month, in this column. None. Now, I know you're crushed. But fear not! You can find out all about our activities and more when you attend the State of the Church meeting announced above. We will discuss church finances, and progress on our goals. Most importantly however, we'll vote on our Church Endowment Investment and Distribution Policy. Since this vote requires 67% percent approval, we are encouraging proxy votes if you cannot attend (But really, is there anything...anything more important to you than this meeting?). In all seriousness, and although this vote may not seem riveting, it is really important. Without it, we can't move forward in getting our endowment fund up and running.

For those of you not familiar with the proxy idea, I have included information about it from our bylaws below.

*Proxy Votes Proxies: At any meeting of members, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a Voting Member may vote in person or by proxy, so long as the substitute is another Voting Member. A Voting Member shall not serve as a proxy for more than two other Voting Members at any one meeting. All proxy authorizations shall:*

- 1. be in writing*
- 2. name the substitute Voting Member*
- 3. identify the meeting for which the proxy is granted*
- 4. be signed and dated by the Voting Member*
- 5. be delivered to the SWUU's Secretary at the beginning of the meeting.*
- 6. be recorded in the minutes of the meeting*

If you are a church member and can't make the meeting, please, oh please make every effort to find a member who is attending, fill out one of the statement forms mentioned above and return it in time. If you need a statement form e-mailed to you, please contact me. Thank you all in advance for contributing to the health of our congregation by voting.

## The Forum

### **Focus Collection for January: Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity** by Nancy Peltola , Social Justice Committee

The January Focus Collection will benefit Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity. Donations will be collected for Habitat all month. Habitat is a nonprofit organization that builds and renovates homes in partnership with qualified families. Their goal is to create hope by building homes, strengthening neighborhoods, and rejuvenating communities.

Our Focus Collection will be used to purchase building materials and support operations. Habitat professional staff works with skilled and less-experienced volunteers to make sure the job is done according to code, often exceeding code regulations. Partner Families invest hundreds of hours to qualify them to move into their new homes.

Since Greater Cleveland Habitat was founded in 1986, over 50,000 volunteers have built or renovated over 240 homes. In 2017 alone, 32 homes were renovated in Greater Cleveland along with completing 47 neighborhood spruce-up projects. Several of our UU Principles relate to the work of Habitat, including: The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person, and The Goal of World Community with Peace, Liberty, and Justice for All.

Also, did you know about the ReStore? You can donate items such as: appliances, furnaces, water heaters, plumbing, tubs, showers, doors, rugs, artwork, and so much more! One ReStore is located at 2110 West 110th Street, Cleveland. More information can be found at [www.clevelandhabitat.org](http://www.clevelandhabitat.org). Your generosity will be greatly appreciated, and will be put to good use — locally!

### **Urban Hope December Donations** by Debby Gorencic, Social Justice Committee

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our congregation, the special collection for Urban Hope was a huge success. Although the collection went on throughout the month of December, we had already received enough donations in early December that we were able to make gift bags to take to Urban Hope when we delivered healthy snacks on December 10.

We continued to receive donations every Sunday in December. In addition to men's and women's underwear, we collected thick socks, leg warmers, hats, earmuffs, gloves, scarves and several fleece blankets. We will deliver the donations when we visit Urban Hope on our monthly visit on January 14th. We should be able to provide every guest with two or three items of clothing to help keep them warm during the winter months. Your ongoing generosity and commitment to the Urban Hope community is truly appreciated.

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## **December Visit to Urban Hope!**

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

WOW! Our monthly visit to Urban Hope was a huge success. It was a bitter cold day, and there were many hungry guests. We treated them to Homemade Soup and Bread, Veggie Platter, Fresh Fruit galore, Cupcakes and cookies, Honey Roasted Peanuts, and many wrapped items to be stuffed in pockets for later. Debby and I also put together treat bags for 60 people. They included socks, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and various creams and soaps from all of the ongoing donations. We also bought small packs of Kleenex and added some candy. The bags were a huge hit, and a welcome treat. It was a festive day all around. It was the same day that Kristen gave the sermon about giving and we had our stars. Our congregation gave "much to many" that Sunday. Thank you all! Our next visit is Sunday, January 14, 2018.



## **Youth Group Fundraiser Baked Potato Bar Dinner**

Come support the SWUU Youth Group at our annual fundraiser! Funds raised will support the group's activities throughout the year.

**When?** Saturday, January 20, 2018

**Where?** SWUU Fellowship Hall

**Time?** 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

The menu includes a baked potato bar with all of the trimmings, salad, dessert and drinks.

*Suggested donation of \$10.00 per person*

See a SWUU Youth Group member to get your ticket today! Tickets will also be sold at the door, but confirmation that you plan to attend on the event sign-up sheets (in the lobby and fellowship hall) is appreciated.

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## 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](http://www.swuu.org)

## Receive The Forum Electronically!

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

[forum@swuu.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office@swuu.org)

## Board Minutes

If you would like to receive the Board Minutes via email, contact [office@swuu.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month. Submissions should be sent to [forum@swuu.org](mailto: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.

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### **Save the Date!**

SWUU's Annual Service Auction --  
a Celebration of Mexican Culture!  
**Saturday, March 3, 2018**

Bid on services and events offered by SWUU members, enjoy a Mexican-themed dinner, play games, bid for raffle baskets, listen to music, and more!

### **OK, What The Heck Is A Service Auction?**

by Susan Paxson, Fundraising Committee

If you are new to SWUU, you might not know what the service auction is. It has been our biggest fundraiser for many years. The best part of it is that you spend money on things you would have to pay for anyway— fun nights out, repair services, outings, movie nights, and dance parties to name a few, except all of the money goes to our church. The auction is silent so there is no pressure to bid on anything. Just come and sign up for the things you think you could use or would enjoy. Usually sellers are encouraged to choose the date of their event in advance and we try to avoid double booking a date/time. If you are feeling more confused or if you would like to ask me some questions, contact me.

### **Are you Getting “The World”?**

by Susan Paxson. Membership

If you are a member, you should be receiving your quarterly issue of The World magazine. If you aren't getting it, please let me know so I can check into it. Similarly, if you do not want to receive it for any reason, I can take you off the mailing list. I have until January 8th to send adjustments. Just send me an email and I will take care of it.



# January 2018

To contact the minister, Rev. Kristen Rohm, or make an appointment to see her, call or email.

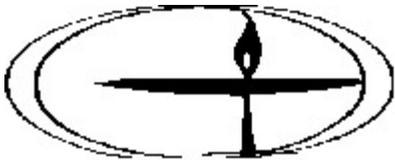
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">           All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a **         </div>						
7 <i>Fire and Water</i> -Rev. Kristen Rohm <u>12:30 PM OWL Meeting</u>	8 1:30 PM Meditation -Rev. Kristen Rohm	9	3 9:30 AM Wednesday Coffee <u>1:00—3:00 PM</u> Spiritual Book Group <u>7:00 PM</u> Worship Team	4 4:00 PM Social Justice Committee <u>7:00 PM</u> Earth Alliance <u>7:00 PM</u> Leadership Development Team	5 10:00 AM Membership Team <u>1:00 PM</u> SWUU Walk	6 3:30 PM Women's History Explorers-Cooks Nite out-TBA
14 <i>Balance and Restorative Justice</i> -Rev. Kristen Rohm	15 1:30 PM Meditation -Rev. Kristen Rohm	16 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	17 <u>1:00—3:00 PM</u> Spiritual Book Group <u>7:30 PM</u> Covenant Group	18	19 2:00 PM Women's Group	20 10:00 AM Covenant Group 5:00—7:00 PM Youth Group Fundraiser
21 <i>When is Enough Enough?</i> -Rev. Kristen Rohm <u>12:30 PM OWL Meeting</u> <u>11:45 AM</u> Congregational Meeting	22 1:30 PM Meditation -Rev. Kristen Rohm	23	24 <u>1:00—3:00 PM</u> Spiritual Book Group	25 <b>FORUM DEADLINE</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Choir Rehearsal	26 7:00 PM Men's Group	27 7:00 PM Youth Group
28 <i>Hope for a Hurting World</i> -Ellen Hansen-Ellis <u>12:00 PM</u> Memory Support Group	29 1:30 PM Meditation -Ellen Hansen-Ellis	30	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;">             Week day meetings are held at the church unless otherwise noted.           </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;">             For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us.           </div>		

# The Forum

## Sharing and Caring

*\* send your joys and sorrows to [forum@swuu.org](mailto:forum@swuu.org) for inclusion in the next issue*

**Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church  
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