
The Forum

A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

February 1, 2018

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton



February 4

The Promise and the Practice

We join UU congregations around the country in celebrating the words, voices, and music of Black Unitarian Universalists in this service. Come together us as we launch our month exploring love in this concrete way. And please stay for the discussion about the UUA Common Read, Centering, following the service.

-Led by Rev Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Dan Paxson

Focus Collection: The Promise and the Practice of our Faith Campaign to Support BLUU

February 11

The Rock We Build Our Church On

Universalism built a church on the guiding power of love, and now it is Unitarian Universalism's calling card. Join us as we ask how is love the guiding principle of our lives? How do we practice and build love into our lives.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Simi Jackson

February 18

Heart Math

Utilizing newest research on the heart, let's explore the intelligence of the heart. What might it mean for how we live our lives, for how we do justice work? Balancing the head and the heart is one path toward health, wholeness, and the beloved community.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Bruce Melville

February 25

Change Our Words, Change the World

There is power in our words and our stories. Our words can tear down and destroy, or they can impart grace and hope to support all who hear them. We have a choice of which kinds of words to use and which kinds of stories to tell as we speak with to our spouses, children, colleagues, and strangers. Destructive language can damage lives. Grace-filled language can transform lives for the good. How can we use the power of words wisely?

-Led by Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, UUA Congregational Life Consultant, UU Justice Ohio Executive Director

Worship Associate: Mark Jackson

The Forum

Message from your Minister

Love

“Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver.”

- Barbara de Angelis

I finish this note to you following a week of professional training at the UUMA Center Institute for Excellence in Ministry. I took a workshop on Stewardship and we talked about who has gifted us with radical generosity, who is our philanthropic hero, along with how to manage our financial resources. Generosity is our longing to live out the love we feel for humanity, for the Mystery that is greater than ourselves, for those closest to us. We talked about money and we talked about love. This month our theme is love, so let's write it large. In what context do you think or say love and what do you mean when you do? How does it motivate you? How does it ground you?

One of the things I like best about being a minister is that my job is to love you, all of you. On your good days and your bad ones, when you are filled with light and laughter and when you are cranky and act out your frustrations on others, when you are well and when you are hurting, in your living and in your dying. I get to love you around and through all your imperfections and broken places. That is the best thing ever. It is a joy and a privilege.

What if all of us took it as our job to love the heck out of the people around us? Or ourselves? Those we don't particularly like or feel in sync with? Not later when we get our act together or when the other person gets their act together. But right now. This breath. Love the heck out of yourself, somebody, or something. Try it.

The choice to love opens us up and makes great things possible; it dances hand in hand with hope and generosity. Play with love this month. Let it make your life more interesting, rewarding, full, and delightful. If you are struggling and that feels like a long shot, let me know. I'm here for you; let's spend a little time together.

Know that you are loved,
Rev. Kristen
minister@swuu.org

The Forum

**Focus Collection for February:
The Promise and the Practice of our Faith
Campaign to Support Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism
by Rev. Kristen Rohm**

What is ‘The Promise & the Practice’?

It’s a turning moment; a choice to listen deeply to the stories in our movement that have not been heard, and taken to heart, by all Unitarian Universalists. It’s a lamenting of what our Unitarian Universalist tradition and congregations have lost by being unable – or unwilling – to center people of color (or even, at times, to merely include them). **The Promise and the Practice** is a celebration of our shared commitment to live into a new chapter in the story of our UU faith.

Finally, we ask that The Promise and The Practice be grounded in the opportunity for every Unitarian Universalist congregation to align its finances with our theology, and to pledge at least \$10 per member to this campaign. All gifts are needed, and every gift is appreciated. If your congregation is able to reach the threshold of \$10 per member, Black Lives of UU (BLUU) will receive a dollar for dollar match for your contribution. Together, we’re striving to fulfill this one million dollar match opportunity.

In October 2016 the UUA Board of Trustees made a bold commitment to fund black leaders in Unitarian Universalism to support ministry to black-identified Unitarian Universalists.

The Board’s decision reflects an understanding that in the late 1960s, Unitarian Universalism was asked to take steps to address the silencing and marginalization of Black Unitarian Universalists. Though there was an initial affirmation of this commitment, the commitment went unfulfilled and [the promise was broken](#).

More than 45 years later, the UUA Board of Trustees moved to fulfill those broken promises with a financial commitment to Black Unitarian Universalists. The Board made this commitment with the understanding that it is for Black Unitarian Universalists to determine for themselves what is needed and how it will be accomplished.

Please see the [UUA website](https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/promise-and-practice) for more information: <https://www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/promise-and-practice>

January Visit to Urban Hope

by Debby Gorencic, Social Justice Committee

Mary and Tom Brooks, Jan and Scott When, and Debby Gorencic delivered healthy snacks to Urban Hope on Sunday, January 14. The cold, blustery weather made for the perfect day to serve Homemade Chili and Corn Muffins. We also treated our guests to a Veggie Tray, Fresh Fruit, Cheese and Crackers, Peanuts, and yummy desserts including Cupcakes, Cookies and Nut Rolls. We had enough food to be able to serve everyone a hearty meal as well as to prepare containers of leftovers for guests to take with them. What a testament to the generosity of our congregation!

In addition to healthy snacks, we also delivered the warm clothing collected during our December Donations drive. Following the meal we passed out socks, hats, gloves and scarfs to our guests. We were able to give a mother with four young children a fleece blanket for her baby and hats and gloves for her toddlers. We left additional items of clothing at Urban Hope to be available to give to guests upon request. There is an ongoing need for warm clothes during the winter and the success of our December Donations is truly appreciated. Our next visit to Urban Hope is Sunday, February 11.

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Board Happenings

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

I've got to be honest. I am writing this article just before the February Forum goes out. It has already been a hectic week with two unplanned church meetings on two successive nights. I still have to deal with a contract for our church copying machine this week. And what I'd really like to do right now is veg. out in front of a Law and Order rerun.

But I'm not going to give in to that temptation completely, because there is some exciting stuff to convey. You'll just have to deal with the fact that it won't be conveyed well.

Ok, first and foremost, THANK YOU to everyone who showed up to participate in and vote at our State-of-the-Church mid-year meeting. Our vote to adopt the Endowment Investment and Distribution Policy passed overwhelmingly with 78% of our members approving. Plus...there was no discussion! This does not happen with UU's. I take that as a sign that: a) it's a thorough, and thoroughly vetted policy; b) you all had actually read it and were well-informed. Well done all around.

During that same meeting, I mentioned that we were trying to move on two initiatives and were looking for volunteers to join either a Safety Team to investigate emergency evacuation procedures and best practices for Sunday Morning services, or a team that is focused on Planning for and Accommodating Growth in our congregation. I am thrilled to report that volunteers are indeed coming forward. We have three interested in the safety team, and two interested in the growth team. To those who have volunteered, thank you for your leadership. For those of you who are still thinking about it, we definitely could use a few more.

Wow! Writing about all this positive energy in our congregation has gotten me all fired up. Who needs an old rerun to get recharged. I've got a vibrant church!

Cooks' Night Out AKA Epicurean Explorers

by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

Carol Jordan is inviting us to meet at Berea Union Depot Tavern on Friday, February 23rd at 6:00 PM. They are located at 30 Depot Street in Berea. Their menu includes meat and fish entrees, sandwiches, flatbreads, pasta, burgers, and salads. This is a chance to eat out with friends and get to know one another in an informal atmosphere. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Carol by Wednesday, February 21st so she can make a reservation. Hope to see you there!

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**Join Us to Celebrate
El Tres De Marzo
A Service Auction and
Celebration of Mexican Culture
Saturday, March 3, 4-8 pm**

by Danelle Baker-Miller

By now, we hope you've heard about our service auction coming up Saturday, March 3, from 4-8 pm. Join us for great food, music, activities for kids and adults, and most importantly, our annual service auction! As part of this fundraiser, the Hospitality Committee and other SWUU members are serving a taco bar with Mexican desserts. If you choose to have dinner, the **cost for the meal is \$10 for adults (ages 13 and up) and \$5 for children.** SWUU members who join us for dinner will see these charges appear on their auction bill. Friends and other guests who will not receive an auction bill can pay cash.

Throughout the evening, we will have tickets available for activities, including a piñata, face painting, games, a dessert dance (formerly known as a cakewalk), a fortuneteller and the raffle baskets available in the sanctuary. Most importantly, the sanctuary will be the site of the auction where you can bid on services, hikes, parties, and other fun and valuable items offered by our congregation. The service auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year and contributes an important part of SWUU's operating budget.

Please plan to join us! We look forward to a memorable evening of fun and fellowship, not only to celebrate El Tres de Marzo but the spirit of our community at SWUU!

The Forum



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.

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

The Forum

Service Auction Items Needed

by Susan Paxson, Fundraising Committee

Our Auction is a big part of the Tres de Marzo celebration which will be happening on March 3rd this year. This is your chance to be creative and share a part of yourself with the group. I will have a number of service auction lists at church on the table in the lobby to give you some ideas. In the past, we have had hikes, dinners, movies, concerts, picnics, and museum or park outings. If you have a service you can provide, please consider doing it gratis and giving the money to the church. Think computer consultation, hair cutting, cleaning, massage, yoga classes, or art classes. Last year, a big seller was the American Greetings tour which was led by Mike and Sharron Gold. There were some other really creative ideas including SWUU (some women untamed and unruffled). Ask Sarajane about that! Some of our members have delivered dinners or made scones. If you are a baker, would you consider making a cake or dessert for our dessert dance? There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby where you can let the committee know how you can help with the event. We are especially looking for help with serving and cleaning up the meal so that our hospitality committee can enjoy the event too. PLEASE contact me if you are interested in participating but not sure how. I can help you with this! You can start sending your items via email any time; there are no service auction forms this year. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Wednesday Book Group Reads "The Jesus Wars"

by Sue Davis

For many years a SWUU group has been meeting every Wednesday to read books about religion and spirituality. We are unusual in that we meet at the home of Keith Mathews in Strongsville rather than at the church. We meet every Wednesday afternoon from 1 until 3. We always welcome new participants. We read the book aloud and then discuss it. That means no homework. We will be starting a new book on February 7. If you're interested, this would be a great time to join us.

Our new book is, "The Jesus Wars: How Four Patriarchs, Three Queens, and Two Emperors Decided What Christians Would Believe for the Next 1,500 Years" by Philip Jenkins. The book describes how a small number of people in the fifth century determined the Christian doctrine that is still believed today. You don't need to be Christian to realize how this has influenced our world. If you wish to join the book group and want more information, please contact Sue Davis.

A Night (or afternoon) at the Movies!

by Hallie Davis

Mark your calendar for February 10th as the Davis Man Cave will be showing two Alfred Hitchcock movies. We begin at 1:30 pm., with "The Man who Knew Too Much" starring Doris Day and Jimmy Stewart. Later, at 7 pm., "To Catch a Thief" with Grace Kelly and Cary Grant will be shown. Beverages and snacks will be provided. The donation for the Matinee is \$5.50 and the evening movie is \$10. All of the proceeds go to the church. This is kind of the a pre-service auction offering! A sign up sheet is available on the table in the gathering area. See Hallie for more info. Handicapped accessible.



February 2018

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

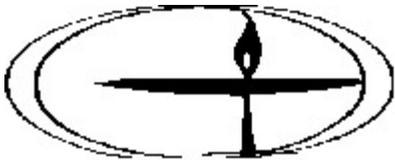
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Week day meetings are held at the church unless otherwise noted						
4 The Promise and the Practice? Rev. Kristen Rohm 12:00-2:00 PM Race and Resilience Conversation 12:30 PM OWL Meeting	5	6 7:00 PM Evening Spiritual Book Group @Leslie Van Kuren's 7:00 PM Worship Team	7 9:30 AM Wednesday Coffee 1:00-3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Keith Mathews'	8 4:00 PM Social Justice Meeting 7:00 PM Earth Alliance	9	10 1:30 PM Matinee in the Mancave \$5.50 7:00 PM Movie in the Mancave \$10
11 The Rock We Build our Church On Rev. Kristen Rohm	12	13 7:00 PM Board Meeting	14 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group@ Keith Mathews'	15	16 2:00 Women's Group	17 10:00 AM Covenant Group
18 Heart Math Rev Kristen Rohm	19	20 7:00 PM Evening Spiritual Book Group@Leslie Van Kuren's	21 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group 7:30 PM Covenant Group	22 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal FORUM DEAD-LINE	23 6:00 Cooks Night Out at Berea Union Depot Taverne 7:00 PM Men's Group	24 7:00 PM Youth Group
25 Change Our Words, Change the World Joan Van Beceleare	26 1:30 PM Meditation	27	28 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a ** </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 10px;"> For calendar adds/changes/deletes notify us at susan@paxson.us. </div>		
12 noon Memory Support Group 12:30 PM OWL Meeting						

The Forum

Sharing and Caring

** 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