



The Forum



A Southwest Unitarian Universalist Publication

www.swuu.org

May 1, 2018

Sunday Services

10:30 AM

6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton



May 6

Creating Beloved Community

This morning we welcome new members and acknowledge our graduating high school Seniors who are Bridging into young adulthood. Join us for this interactive service as we make manifest the beloved community that sustains us all

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Adrienne Ellis

Focus Collection: Urban Hope

May 13

Origins and Outcomes

We create community first in our own hearts, in our daily lives. Then we take that community beyond our doors to welcome the stranger and to work for justice in the world. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King popularized the phrase beloved community, what does it mean for us today?

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Bruce Melville

May 20

Sleeping on a Train

Empathy is the ability of one person to understand and share the feelings of another person. We will examine the concept of empathy and how it relates to our Unitarian Universalist Faith.

-Led by Tom Beck, member UU Church of Akron, a Guest in Your Pulpit Speaker

Worship Associate: Ken Ellis

May 27

Belonging: Webs, Wells and Potatoes

There are many ways to envision, describe and live out beloved community. This Memorial Day Weekend, we share our visions with one another about what community means to us and what it calls us to do in our lives.

-Led by Rev. Kristen Rohm

Worship Associate: Leslie Van Kuren

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Message from your Minister

Beloved Community

“In our vision of beloved community, diversity thrives, everyone is included and justice prevails. Each of us gets to bring our entire selves to the mix...”

- Tools for Change

May is upon us and will hopefully bring some regular sunshine and warmth! I am so ready after what feels like a long and lingering winter. How about you? The glass half full part of this winter is that our congregation has welcomed many new faces that have become interwoven into our community. It is an energizing, enlivening process. We have also spent this winter engaging with anti-racism work; asking awkward and necessary questions about race, how we learned about what being white or black meant, how we understand the privileges of being white and the challenges of being a person of color, especially in our majority white faith. It's been energizing and enlivening to be in this place of discomfort together. Like most things in life, the hard stuff is made doable by being together.

What does community mean to you? When we add the word beloved to that, how does it shift or deepen? What does being in community call you to do? Please be pondering these questions. And bring your thoughts to church and record them in the notebook in the lobby. I like the phrase beloved community because it sums up my life as a minister. To me each of you is beloved and the community we weave together is sacred. It means that at times we put the good of the whole above our own individual wants. It means that at times, we reach past our comfort zone to do what is right. It means that when life is hard, we are held by those around us, often by someone that surprises us. It means that we extend ourselves, open our heart and give from deep inside. It means that we receive. That we feel connected to the deeper wisdom, to the Holy within and without. That we are moved by this connection to do the hard work of creating justice for all. It means that we become whole and we begin to heal this broken world.

My friends, this month, may you connect deeply with the Mystery. May you know yourself as a beloved child of the Universe. May you connect deeply with those around you and those within this congregation. May you take an action to build justice.

Together we create the beloved community.

Know that you are loved,

Rev. Kristen

minister@swuu.org

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OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The SWUU Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2018, at 11:45, in the sanctuary. Please plan to attend. Everyone is 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. An agenda will be posted in coming weeks.

Focus Collection for May: Urban Hope

by Jan Wehn, Social Justice Committee

As you undoubtedly know, Urban Hope is the Social Justice Committee's passion and focus for our contributions and volunteer efforts. We ask for food donations monthly, and this past year we added the clothing drive at the holidays which was an overwhelming success. This month we are requesting a financial donation. The money is used for the rent, extra supplies, paying for the Peacekeeper, and to help support the Community Garden all spring and summer. Children from Kentucky School are given a plot to call their own, and volunteers meet with them weekly and teach them about planting as well as working on other crafts and projects. We write to you each month to tell you about the positive responses we receive from the Urban Hope Community. We urge you to join us on a Sunday to see what it is all about. There will be a poster downstairs sharing pictures of what happens on any given Sunday. You may recognize some of the people included. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Youths Jump in to Urban Hope Effort by Nancy Peltola, Social Justice Committee

On Sunday, April 8, a team of dedicated SWUU youths arrived at Urban Hope on the near westside of Cleveland to assist with distribution of soup, snacks, cheese, nuts, fruits, veggies, and desserts to feed our hungry neighbors. Youths included Sean, Bella, Simi, and Olivia, accompanied by Mark Jackson and Danelle & Adam Miller.

The youths have gotten very comfortable with their outreach at UH, and their smiling faces were appreciated as they handed out granola bars, cheese sticks, packs of peanuts, and cupcakes. They also washed dishes, served soup, and refilled serving trays, all with a fun attitude that was greatly appreciated by our neighbors. Jean at Urban Hope gave them a special thank you and assured them of the value of their volunteer work. We were so very happy to have their assistance! "We" refers to the other SWUU adult volunteers: Mary & Tom Brooks, Chris Wolf, and Nancy & Denny Peltola. Many thanks to everyone at SWUU who provided food to make this effort a great success! We welcome your participation each month.

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Criminal Justice Reform Action Report

by Chris Wolf, Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC)

The April 24th action took place at the historic 108 year old St. John AME Church. Over 450 people were in attendance and SWUU was represented by nine members. As with the other actions I have attended, this event opened with singing, an opening prayer, rounds and testimony. Strategy Team members spoke individually and also interacted with both Prosecutor O'Malley and Justice Russo while they delivered their reports. Progress has



been made in the direction of commitments made during past actions.

To see the action proceedings in their entirety, find the GCC page on [Facebook](#). It would certainly

appear that GCC and our city leaders are in

alignment. However, GCC has requested a follow-up in 90 days to check progress. Judge Russo made clear that collaboration between GCC, the city leaders, and all who they represent as key to this progress. We all have a part to play.



Next up: **Listen. Act. Win. Education Action**

Tuesday, May 8th

New Tech Collinwood

15210 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland

6:00-7:30 pm

This time CEO Eric Gordon of Cleveland City Schools will follow up on his commitments made last year. GCC needs our representation at this action; please consider attending. A sign-up sheet will be in the lobby so we can arrange carpooling. If you have never attended one of these, you will be inspired!

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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

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.

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Board Happenings

by Dan Paxson, SWUU Board President

The Board's activities this past month have largely been a continuation from those previously reported, so there isn't too much to say on this front. Highlights would include:

- We continue to liaise with our newly formed Sunday Morning Safety, Planning for Growth, and Leadership Development, and Endowment Oversight Teams
- We are still waiting on the outcome of our Chalice Lighter Grant application. The decision has been delayed until mid-May
- We have sought and secured the services of a professional accountant to advise us on some financial matters. This is a consultant-type arrangement where we pay on an as-needed basis. Our first meeting is May 1.

So, without much else to discuss from the board, I'd like to turn to our pledge drive. As you know we had our Celebration of Generosity Potluck on April 28th. It was a great event (Thanks so much to the Finance and Hospitality Committees for arranging it) and a remarkable 62% of our known pledgers turned in their pledge cards. True to the spirit of our church, those pledges showed a substantial increase by many. THANK YOU! On their face, the pledges received to date put us at 73% of our goal. So, we are well on our way to making it! However, if we dig a bit deeper and look at those who have not yet pledged, it gets a little more dicey. If those folks don't increase their pledge over last year, we will come up short of our goal. As such, I'm hoping that those of you who have not yet pledged will step up to the plate like those who already have. I've got a good feeling that you will.

It is important that we complete our pledge drive soon, since we have to prepare and approve a budget based on it, and we have to present that budget to the congregation at our June 3 Annual Meeting. As such, you can expect a call from our Finance Chair, Lydia Avery if your card is not turned by May 6th. If you have not received a pledge card but wish to make a pledge, please contact me at president@swuu.org.

What I did on my Spring Break

by Susan Paxson

Imagine spending a few days immersed in the Smoky Mountains, under clear starry skies, and surrounded by loving, open, Unitarian Universalists. Then think about wonderful, healthy food and a variety of musical opportunities including instrumental and vocal. Drumming and listening are other ways to participate in the programs. If this sounds like a slice of heaven, then Music Week at The Mountain may be something you should consider for 2019!

"The Mountain was founded by Unitarian Universalists in 1979 as a nonprofit camp and conference center. This is an ecologically conscious retreat and learning center serving congregations, businesses, schools, and other Unitarian Universalist and community groups. It is located on 4,200 foot high granite cliffs on the Eastern Continental Divide in the Blue Ridge Mountains." When you come to the mountain, you stay in either cabins or a lodge. Your cost includes all of your meals and the programming for the week. This spring, from May 20-25, there will be a Sustainability/Climate Justice weeklong workshop for anyone interested. For more information about this or any other programs, check out the website <http://themountainrlc.org/>

I have already decided to attend Music Week in 2019. If you sign up before Feb 28th, you get a \$25.00 discount. It will be April 21st-26th, the week after Easter Sunday. I plan to do what I did this year which is to drive on Monday and return home on Friday. You don't even have to miss church! The cost will be around \$450 and it is worth every penny. Join me! I have room for 3 other people in my Prius and I am willing to do all of the driving! Think about it!

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SAVE THE DATE

Join SWUU for the Cleveland Pride Parade on Saturday, June 2nd around noon downtown. Watch for more details in the coming weeks!!

Say No To Single-Use Plastic

By Ellen Hansen-Ellis, SWUU Earth Alliance

The SWUU Earth Alliance would like to add its voice to the growing chorus that is speaking out against single-use plastics. There is growing awareness of severe problems in our oceans, our food chains, and our landfills, due to unrestrained plastic production and use. Non-degradable plastics are choking the earth, killing wildlife, and breaking down into tiny pieces that become part of the food chain (and us!). We hope you agree that it's time for change.

Here are some suggestions for reducing your plastic footprint:

- Stop accepting plastic grocery/retail bags. Bring your own cloth bags, or reuse plastic bags when possible.
- Refuse straws – they are one of the largest single sources of plastic pollution.
- Never consume bottled water – use refillable water containers. Let people know that plastic water bottles are a bad idea
- Avoid plastic cutlery. Make sure your workplace break room has reusable metal silverware, and don't use plastic cutlery at all if there is an alternative.
- Recycle plastics at home whenever possible.
- Bring your own "take-home" containers to restaurants.
- Avoid Solo cups – they are not recyclable.

Being intentional and working to develop new habits can make you part of the solution. Supporting environmental legislation with your letters and e-mails helps, too. And letting businesses know that you prefer less packaging, no styrofoam, and durable products, can make a difference. Here at SWUU we can act on our stated values by avoiding single-use plastics, composting, and setting a good example out in the world. Mother earth is counting on you!

All-Church Picnic

by Susan Paxson, Membership Committee

After our annual Congregational Meeting, we hope you will come to Brecksville Reservation for a Pot Luck Picnic. We will meet at the Harriet Keeler Shelter across from the nature center on Chippewa Drive (at the top of the hill). The area is not reservable, but Pam Benedict is going to set out some coolers and tablecloths and this will "save" our spot!

This will be a true pot luck lunch so just bring something you like that you want to share with the group. It is helpful to also let people know the ingredients so that those with dietary restrictions know what is "safe". We also want you to BYOPS (bring your own place setting) so we don't have to use paper products. Hope to see many of you there!

Watch for a sign-up sheet in the lobby starting in mid-May so we will have an idea of how many tables we need!



May 2018

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

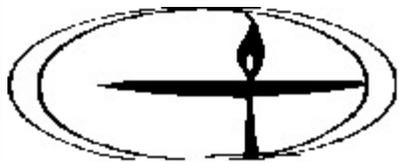
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> All events are handicap accessible unless indicated by a ** </div> Week day meetings are held at the church unless otherwise noted						
6 Creating Beloved Community -Rev. Kristen Rohm 12:00 PM Caring Team Meeting 12:00 PM Online Giving Demo—downstairs	7 1:30 PM Meditation	8 VOTE !!! 2:30PM—SWUU Walk—Paw Paw Picnic area 7:00 PM Board Meeting	9 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews	10 10:00 AM Membership Team 4:00 PM Social Justice 7:00 PM Earth Alliance	11 7:00 PM SWUU Puzzle and Game Night	12 3:30 PM Women's History 5:00 PM OWL Meeting
13 Origins and Outcomes -Rev. Kristen Rohm 11:45 AM Live, Love, Laugh	14 1:30 PM Meditation	15 7:00 PM Evening Spiritual Book Group	16 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews 7:30 PM Covenant Group	17	18 2:00 PM Women's Group 7:00 PM Cooks' Night Out @Santo's	19 10:00 AM Covenant Group 6:30PM Membership Dinner
20 Sleeping on a Train -Tom Beck 12:00 PM Race and Resilience Conversation	21 1:30 Meditation	22	23 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews 7:00 PM Worship Team	24 FORUM DEAD-LINE	25 7:00 PM Men's Group	26 10:00 AM SWUU Walk-TBA 7:00 PM Youth Group Meeting
27 Belonging: Webs, Wells and Potatoes -Rev. Kristen Rohm 12 PM Memory Support Group	28 1:30 Meditation	29	30 1:00—3:00 PM Spiritual Book Group @ Mathews	31 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> All calendar adds/changes/deletes must be funneled through the editor </div>	

The Forum

Sharing and Caring

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

**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.